

Aruba

TODAY

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OUT OF SIGHT

ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

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NEW YORK — Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, fresh off a defeat in his campaign to limit large servings of sugary drinks, is returning to a front where he has enjoyed far more success: making it harder to smoke, by proposing legislation



New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg speaks at Queens County Medical Center in New York, March 18, 2013.
(O. Muhammad/NYT)

Monday requiring stores to put cigarettes out of sight. Bloomberg said his bill would make New York the first city in the nation to keep tobacco products hidden. He said they could be kept, for example, in a cabinet or a drawer, behind the counter or a curtain, but not anywhere where customers could see them.

The campaign is intended to shield children from tobacco marketing and to keep people who have quit smoking from making impulse buys of cigarettes, he said.

"Such displays suggest that smoking is a normal activity, and they invite young people to experiment with tobacco," Bloomberg said at a news conference.

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Secretary of State John Kerry, accompanied by Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr, gestures as he speaks to reporters following their meeting at the State Department in Washington, Monday, March 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

US won't stop others from arming Syria rebels

BEN HUBBARD

Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Ending Syria's civil war through negotiations seemed an even more remote prospect Monday, as the main opposition group tried to set up a rival government to President Bashar Assad's regime and the U.S. said it won't stop allies from arming the rebels.

The opposition Syrian National Coalition met in Istanbul, Turkey, on Monday to elect a prime minister

who would run an interim government in Syria's rebel-held areas.

The election was initially set for Tuesday, but officials then said it might take place later Monday. Similar efforts had been derailed by internal disputes in the past.

Setting up such a government, in a direct challenge to the regime, could harden battle lines even more and close the door to negotiations between Assad and the opposition.

The U.S. has been cool to the idea of a rival government, saying the focus should be on a political transition. Under a plan endorsed by the international community last year, Assad's supporters and opponents were to propose representatives for a transition government, with each side able to veto candidates.

However, the plan did not address Assad's role. Most in the Syrian opposition rule out any negotiations with

the Syrian ruler. On Monday, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said the Obama administration wants to leave the door open for a political solution.

But concerning Syria's rebels, "the United States does not stand in the way of other countries that made a decision to provide arms, whether it's France or Britain or others," Kerry said, speaking in Washington.

Continued on Page 3

LATIN AMERICAN BRIEFS

US denies targeting Venezuela's Capriles

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The U.S. government has rejected charges from Venezuela's acting leader that former U.S. officials are planning to assassinate opposition presidential candidate Henrique Capriles and foment a coup. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told reporters Monday "the United States categorically rejects allegations of any U.S. government involvement in any plot to destabilize the Venezuelan government or to harm anyone in Venezuela." Maduro first made the accusation last week. He said the masterminds were former diplomats from the Bush administration. Maduro asked President Barack Obama to "stop this insanity."

Exit polls: Lima's mayor survives election

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Lima's first elected female mayor will survive a recall election widely seen as a bid to reclaim power by groups threatened by her reforms, three exit polls suggested. The polls showed that roughly 53 percent of voters want center-leftist Susana Villaran to finish her term as mayor of Peru's capital. Villaran has battled to organize Lima's chaotic, transit system and reform other corruption-ridden institutions. The career human rights official was backed by most of Peru's political establishment. Polling company CPI showed 54% of voters rejecting her ouster, while polling firms Ipsos and DI had her receiving roughly 53% support.

Death toll in fireworks explosion hits 17

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The death toll in a gruesome fireworks explosion during a religious procession in Mexico rose to 17, after four more people died of their injuries. Hundreds of mourners gathered for a mass funeral for the first 13 victims of the blast, which occurred over the weekend in Jesus Tepactepec, a village of about 1,000 people 70 miles east of Mexico City. "I appeal to the conscience of the people of Tlaxcala, to reflect and take measures to guarantee the responsible and orderly use of fireworks," Tlaxcala Bishop Moreno Barron said. The statement said 17 people in total were killed and 80 remain hospitalized in Tlaxcala.

Mudslides kill 13 north of Rio de Janeiro

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — At least 13 people have been killed in mudslides triggered by torrential rains in a mountain town north of Rio de Janeiro where floods killed more than 900 people two years ago, state officials said Monday. A month's worth of precipitation, or about 14 inches of rain, fell in just 24 hours in Petropolis, a town of around 300,000 nestled in mountains about 65 kilometers (40 miles) north of Rio. Meteorologists are forecasting more rain in the coming days. The death toll has been creeping steadily up Monday, with the head of the state's emergency response unit saying at least 13 people were killed. Officials have warned that the death toll could rise.

Shootout claims 3 gunmen, 2 gunwomen

CIUDAD VICTORIA, Mexico (AP) — Prosecutors in northern Mexico say five armed people are dead after a shootout with Mexican soldiers. The five wore bandoliers and black uniform-style clothing, and had an unusual makeup: two were women, three were men. Prosecutors in northern Tamaulipas state said that the shootout occurred in the border city of Reynosa, across the border from McAllen, Texas. The city has been a hotbed of drug cartel activity, but the prosecutors' office did not say whether the dead appeared to belong to a drug gang. Women have been increasingly drawn into Mexico's drug war, but usually as couriers or in money laundering. □

Bloomberg: make stores conceal cigarettes

Continued from front

He also proposed a second bill that would raise penalties for retailers who evade tobacco taxes by selling smuggled cigarettes, prohibit them from redeeming coupons, and require them to sell cheap cigars and cigarillos, or little cigars, in packs of at least four. It would also create a minimum price of \$10.50 per pack for cigarettes and cigarillos, as a further disincentive to smoke. The bills would not stop stores from advertising that they have cigarettes for sale, or from displaying prices; and they would not apply to cigar shops that do not admit minors.

As Bloomberg finishes his third and final term, he has been intent on burnishing his legacy, hiring extra

city's Board of Health, and a state judge ruled a week ago that the board, among other missteps, had exceeded its authority. The city is appealing the ruling. If the cigarette laws are passed, precedent suggests New York City will face another legal challenge. The village of Haverstraw in Rockland County passed a ban on cigarette displays in retail stores in April, but rescinded it a few months later when it could not afford to litigate a suit brought by tobacco companies and convenience stores, according to reports in the Rockland County Times.

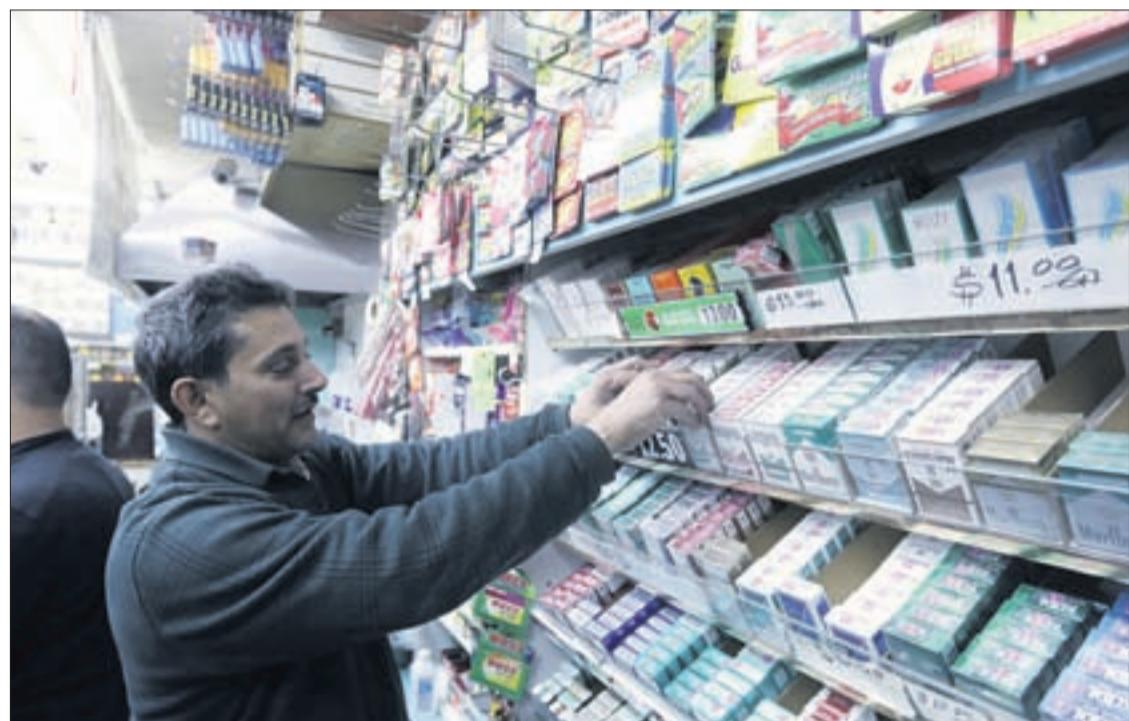
Cigarettes are like wall paper at many convenience stores and, like bottled water and lottery tickets, account for a large per-

centage of sales. But they have dropped from their best-selling position due to high taxes, James S. Calvin, president of the New York Association of Convenience Stores, said Monday. The combined city and state taxes add \$5.85 to the cost of every pack — the highest in the country, and more than the pack itself costs, in many cases.

"We think it's patently absurd," Calvin said. "Can you think of any other retail business that is licensed to sell legal products that is required to hide them from the view of its customers? I can't."

He noted that convenience stores also display beer and lottery tickets and pharmacies display condoms, and he asked, rhetorically, whether anyone thought those compelled young people to start drinking, gambling or having premarital sex. "Is all of that rational and logical?" he said. "I don't think so."

David Sutton, a spokesman for Altria, parent company of Philip Morris USA, said the company supported federal legislation banning sales to minors and through self-service. But he added, "To the extent that this proposed law would ban the display of products to adult tobacco consumers, we believe it goes too far."



Mohsen Almuflahi with his cigarette stock at Long Island Deli Express in New York, March 18, 2013. Under a proposal announced Monday by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, New York would become the first city in the U.S. requiring stores to keep tobacco products out of sight.

(Ozier Muhammad/The New York Times)

public relations help and touting his health agenda, where he has been a recognized national figure with his efforts to reduce trans-fat, salt and sugar consumption, and to curb smoking, teenage pregnancy and obesity.

This latest proposal will go to the City Council for its consideration, a step Bloomberg skipped when he proposed a ban on sugared drinks bigger than 16 ounces in movie theaters, restaurants and other establishments. That rule went through the

percentage of sales. But they have dropped from their best-selling position due to high taxes, James S. Calvin, president of the New York Association of Convenience Stores, said Monday. The combined city and state taxes add \$5.85 to the cost of every pack — the highest in the country, and more than the pack itself costs, in many cases.

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Mohsen Almuflahi, a manager of the Long Island Express Deli in Queens, predicted the new laws, if passed, would not make any difference. His store carries a rainbow-like display of cigarette packs, along with ads for a pack of Newport at \$11 touting its "premium tobacco pleasure" and the other for a pack of Maverick, \$10.85. "If they want to smoke, they'll smoke anyways," he said.

City officials said smoking still kills 7,000 New Yorkers a year. □

US Justices appear divided on Arizona voting law

ADAM LIPTAK

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WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court appeared divided along familiar lines on Monday as it heard arguments over whether Arizona can require proof of citizenship from people seeking to register to vote in federal elections.

Several of the court's more liberal justices sounded doubtful about a state law that imposes requirements beyond those called for by a federal law.

"Many people don't have the documents that Arizona requires," Justice Sonia Sotomayor said.

The Arizona law, enacted in 2004 by a ballot initiative, requires prospective voters to prove that they are citizens by submitting copies of or information concerning various documents, including birth certificates, passports, naturalization papers or Arizona driver's licenses,

which are available only to people who are in the state lawfully.

The question for the justices was whether that state law conflicted with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, which allows voters to register using a federal form that asks, "Are you a citizen of the United States?" Prospective voters must check a box yes or no, and they must sign the form, swearing that they are citizens under penalty of perjury.

Several members of the court's conservative wing indicated that the state was free to impose additional requirements to make sure only citizens vote.

Justice Antonin Scalia said the federal form was inadequate. "So it's under oath," he said. "Big deal. If you're willing to violate the voting laws, I suppose you're willing to violate the perjury laws."

"Under oath," he added, "is not proof at all. It's just a statement."

Patricia A. Millett, a lawyer for several groups challenging the Arizona law, responded that "statements under oath in criminal

cases are proof beyond a reasonable doubt" sufficient to lead to the death penalty. She added that tens of thousands of people had been rejected from the registration rolls thanks to

firmed a 2010 ruling from a three-judge panel that included Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who retired from the Supreme Court in 2006 but occasionally acts as a visiting appeals court judge.

sive vote, asked questions on Monday sympathetic to both sides.

Under Arizona's interpretation, he said, "it seems to me the federal form, as some of my colleagues have indicated, is not

when those, are elections of federal officials."

Thomas C. Horne, Arizona's attorney general, said the federal approach was insufficient to protect the integrity of federal elections in his state.

"It's essentially an honor system," he said of the statement required by the federal form. "It does not do the job."

Horne said Arizona should be free to supplement the federal form even though the federal law required state officials to "accept and use" the federal form. An airline may "accept and use" an electronic ticket, he said, and yet still require identification.

Justice Elena Kagan said that was the wrong analogy. Arizona's system is akin, she said, to requiring a paper ticket in addition to the electronic one. "That would be inconsistent with the 'accept and use' language," she said.

Though Scalia appeared attentive to the state's concerns, he suggested that it may have fumbled the litigation by not going to court after losing before the federal Election Assistance Commission.

"You should have challenged the commission's refusal to place that evidence in the federal form," Scalia told Horne. □



The Supreme Court argued Monday, March 18, 2013 over whether states fighting voter fraud and illegal immigration can make people document their U.S. citizenship before allowing them to use a federal voter registration system that was designed to make it easier to vote.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

the Arizona law, though there was no evidence that they were not citizens. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in San Francisco, blocked the state law last year, saying it conflicted with the federal one. That decision, from a 10-judge panel, effectively af-

O'Connor, who was in the courtroom on Monday, joined the majority in 2010 in ruling that the state law was inconsistent with the federal one and so could not survive.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who may hold the deci-

worth very much." Later, though, he said the appeals court had not given enough weight to Arizona's concerns.

"The state has a very strong and vital interest in the integrity of its elections," he said, "even when those, and perhaps especially

US won't stop others from arming Syria rebels

Continued from front

His comments came after French President Francois Hollande said last week that his country and Britain were pushing the European Union to lift its arms embargo on Syria as soon as possible so that they can send weapons to rebel fighters.

The two countries are seeking military help for the rebels by the end of May or earlier if possible. Germany and other EU nations have been skeptical, pointing to the risk of further escalation.

Britain and France argue that Assad will not hold

genuine negotiations if he believes he can survive militarily and that strengthening the rebels is the only way of squeezing the regime. Kerry's remarks indicate that the Obama administration will not interfere with any country seeking to rebalance the fight against an Assad regime supported by Russia, Iran and Hezbollah.

The United States long argued that more weapons in Syria would only make peace harder. As the violence has worsened over the last year, Washington has tempered that message somewhat. It is now promising nonlethal aid to

the anti-Assad militias in the form of meals and medical kits, and refusing to rule out further escalation.

The Syria conflict erupted in March 2011 as a largely peaceful uprising. In response to a regime crackdown, the rebellion turned into an armed insurgency and then civil war. More than 70,000 people have been killed and some 4 million of Syria's 22 million people have been driven from their homes by the fighting, according to U.N. estimates.

The conflict remains deadlocked, with rebels controlling large areas in northern and eastern Syria, and the

regime defending its hold on the capital Damascus and elsewhere. Services have broken down in many rebel-held areas, which come under frequent regime attack by air-dropped bombs and artillery.

The Syrian National Coalition, largely based in exile, has wrestled for weeks with a decision on setting up an interim government. The exiles could have trouble asserting their authority in war-ravaged regions, and the risk of failure is high.

"Expectations will be high and means will be low," said coalition member Louay Safi. □



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Republican roadmap: Party must be more 'inclusive'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A scathing self-analysis released Monday by the Republican National Committee says the Republicans are perceived as "narrow minded," "out of touch" and "stuffy old men" and must be more "welcoming and inclusive" to minority voters who overwhelmingly support Democrats.

The Republican establishment outlined plans for a campaign to reach out to minority groups — gay voters among them — as part of a strategy to make the party more appealing to growing segments of the U.S. population who are voting for Democrats in progressively larger numbers.

President Barack Obama won re-election last November with support from 80 percent of nonwhite and ethnic voters.

"When Republicans lost in November, it was a wake-up call," Reince Priebus, the RNC chair, said in a



Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairman Reince Priebus gestures while speaking at the National Press Club in Washington, Monday, March 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

Monday morning speech. America's changing demographics have some Republican strategists worried. Last year, racial and ethnic minorities became a majority among babies under age 1 for the first time in

U.S. history. Party leaders have crafted dozens of recommendations following a months-long self-examination prompted by last year's painful election losses, which also reduced the

Republican majority in the House of Representatives and increased the Democratic majority in the Senate. The Republican National Committee's shift on minority outreach may be the most visible change in

the coming months. Priebus plans to dispatch hundreds of paid workers into Hispanic, black and Asian communities across the nation by the end of the summer, a \$10 million effort meant to rival Obama's national political machine.

The party will also push for a tone of "tolerance and respect" in the immigration debate, create "senior level advisory councils" focused on minority groups, and establish "swearing in citizenship teams" to connect with new voters immediately after swearing-in ceremonies.

"We need to go to communities where Republicans do not normally go to listen and make our case," the report says. "We need to campaign among Hispanic, black, Asian and gay Americans and demonstrate that we care about them, too."

Conservative and tea party criticism was immediate, a sign that the prescriptions may end up widening existing divides rather than building new bridges in an evolving party.

"The idea that a major political party must accept the practice of homosexuality as normal so as to remain relevant will prove the contrary and lead to disaster," said John Horvat II, a Catholic scholar.

And Jenny Beth Martin, national coordinator for the Tea Party Patriots, faulted Washington Republican establishment leaders for the November losses, saying they strayed from the conservative message.

"Americans and those in the tea party movement don't need an 'autopsy' report from RNC to know they failed to promote our principles and lost because of it," she said.

Companies begin defense in Gulf oil spill trial

M. KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Workers on the drilling rig that exploded at the outset of the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill catastrophe were "trying to get it right" as they monitored BP's well for signs of trouble before the blast, an expert witness for the company that owned the rig testified Monday.

"They just misinterpreted what they were seeing," well control expert Calvin Barnhill said on the 13th day of a trial over the disaster. "I don't think anybody out there intentionally misinterpreted this situation."

Barnhill was Transocean Ltd.'s first witness as the Swiss-based company,

which leased the rig to BP PLC, started presenting its defense. Transocean president and CEO Steven Newman was scheduled to testify Tuesday. U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier already has heard testimony by more than a dozen witnesses called by the Justice Department and attorneys for Gulf Coast businesses and residents who claim the spill cost them money. The plaintiffs' lawyers still expect to call another witness to the stand this week, an employee of cement contractor Halliburton. Transocean's witnesses could take up the rest of the trial's fourth week. Halliburton and BP plan to call their own witnesses after Trans-

ocean finishes. The trial is designed to determine the causes of BP's well blowout and assign percentages of fault to the companies involved in the ill-fated drilling project.

The judge is hearing the case without a jury and — barring a settlement — could decide how much more money BP and its contractors owe for their roles in the catastrophe. BP could be on the hook for nearly \$18 billion in penalties under the Clean Water Act if the judge finds that it acted with "gross negligence."

The explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig in the Gulf of Mexico on April 20, 2010, killed 11 workers and led to

the nation's worst offshore oil spill. After a plaintiffs' expert finished testifying Monday, BP attorney Andy Langan asked Barbier to rule that the plaintiffs haven't proved the London-based oil giant acted with gross negligence or willful misconduct.

Barbier said he wasn't ready to rule on that request yet.

M-I LLC, BP's drilling fluids contractor on the Macondo well, asked the judge on Monday to dismiss all of the plaintiffs' claims against the company. M-I attorneys argued the plaintiffs haven't presented any evidence that M-I made any decision that led to the blowout. Barbier didn't immediately rule on M-I's request, either.

Obama nominates justice aide Perez for labor post

PETER BAKER

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WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama on Monday nominated Thomas E. Perez, who heads the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department, to be the next secretary of labor, a choice that promises to provoke a debate with Republicans about voting rights and discrimination.

Perez would replace Hilda L. Solis, who stepped down in January after four years running the Labor Department. Word of Perez's possible selection had been circulating in Washington for days. The announcement comes just days after a Justice Department inspector general's report found that the voting rights section has been torn by "deep ideological polarization" with liberal and con-

servative factions in sharp conflict. The divisions date to the George W. Bush administration, and most occurred before Perez was confirmed in October 2009. He portrayed the report as largely clearing the section on his watch.

But the report also raised



President Barack Obama, left, and Thomas Perez, who heads the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department, during a news conference in the East Room of the White House, March 18, 2013.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

questions about testimony he gave, and Republicans made clear that they would take issue with his handling of some cases over the past 3 1/2 years. His critics question, for example, whether he acted inappropriately in persuading St. Paul, Minn., to drop

a lawsuit seeking to limit fair housing claims when there is no intentional bias.

Liberals and labor leaders have hailed Perez, calling him a strong champion for workers and those who have faced discrimination. While at the Justice Department, he has pursued a record number of discrimination or brutality claims against local police and sheriff's departments, including that of Joe Arpaio, the outspoken sheriff in Maricopa County, Ariz., who was accused of "a pattern of unlawful discrimination" against Latinos. Perez also challenged voter identification requirements imposed by South Carolina and Texas, and his division reached the three largest residential fair lending settlements in the history of the Fair Housing

Act. Under him, the voting section participated in the most new litigation in the last fiscal year than in any previous year.

Perez, 51, who would be the only Hispanic in the Cabinet if confirmed, is the son of immigrants from the Dominican Republic. Perez graduated from Brown University and Harvard Law School. He has spent a career fighting discrimination cases as a federal prosecutor, then, under President Bill Clinton, as deputy chief of the civil rights division that he now heads, and finally as head of civil rights enforcement at the Health and Human Services Department. He also served as an elected council member in Montgomery County, Md., and as the state's secretary of labor, licensing and regulation.

Hillary Clinton endorses same-sex marriage

SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

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Saying that "gay rights are human rights," Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former secretary of state and potential 2016 presidential candidate, has endorsed same-sex marriage.

"I believe America is at its best when we champion the freedom and dignity of every human being," Clinton said in a video posted Monday on the Internet by the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights advocacy group. Her announcement comes as the Supreme Court is about to hear two landmark gay rights cases that advocates hope will make same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states.

Clinton had not previously come out in favor of same-sex marriage, but she did take steps to protect gay

couples when she was secretary of state, work that she said "inspired me to think anew" about the values she held. "LGBT Americans are our colleagues, our teachers, our soldiers, our friends, our loved ones, and they are full and equal citizens and deserve the rights of citizenship," she said in the six-minute video, using the abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. "That includes marriage." Clinton spoke in the video of the recent wedding of her own daughter, Chelsea, saying, "I wish every parent that same joy." Clinton and her family have longstanding ties to the Human Rights Campaign. The group's executive director, Chad Griffin, was born in Hope, Ark. – Bill Clinton's hometown – and got his start in politics volunteering for Bill

Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign. The former president and Chelsea Clinton expressed their support for same-sex marriage when it was under con-

sideration in the New York state legislature.

And just last week, Bill Clinton expressed his explicit support for overturning the federal Defense of Mar-

riage Act, the 1996 law – which he signed – that requires the federal government to view marriage as between a man and a woman for legal purposes.

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Rockefeller impostor on trial for murder

LINDA DEUTSCH

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A prosecutor told jurors Monday he will prove a cold-case murder allegation against a German immigrant who spent years moving through U.S. society under a series of aliases, most notoriously posing as a member of the fabled Rockefeller family. The prosecution's outline, however, offered no suggestion of a motive for the killing and focused instead on the many identities and fabulous assertions of a man with a gift for deceit. Christian Karl Gerhartsreiter, known for 20 years as Clark Rockefeller, sat quietly listening on Monday to Deputy District Attorney Habib Balian's opening statement, which wove a complicated web of circumstantial evidence.

Balian told of how Gerhartsreiter came to the United States, began inventing new identities and charmed his way into the lives of people from coast to coast. At issue is the fate of a couple who befriended him in 1985 and vanished shortly afterward. The young husband's bones were eventually unearthed from his backyard decades later, but his wife has never been found. The defense was planning to outline its contention that there was no motive for the defendant to kill anyone nor is there sufficient proof to convict him. Gerhartsreiter has pleaded not guilty to the killing of John Sohus, 27, who disappeared with his wife, Linda. At the time,

Gerhartsreiter — using an alias — was a guest cottage tenant at the home of Sohus' mother, where the couple lived. "Ladies and gentlemen, the evidence will show that John and Linda Sohus are dead," Balian said. The most mysterious evidence is a series of postcards from Linda Sohus sent to friends and family from Paris after she disap-

a bag of bones found buried at the property and the fuzzy memories of residents of San Marino, a wealthy Los Angeles suburb. The residents knew the defendant as Chris Chichester. When Chichester suddenly vanished from San Marino following the departure of the Sohuses, residents didn't connect him with the couple's disappearance.



Christian Karl Gerhartsreiter, center, with his attorney Bradford Bailey, left arrives for opening statements in his trial, in Los Angeles Criminal Court Building Monday, March 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut)

peared. The handwriting was analyzed as hers, but the stamps — which were subject to DNA analysis — were licked by a man who wasn't Gerhartsreiter, the prosecutor said.

Earlier this year, Balian said police found a storage locker rented by Gerhartsreiter in Baltimore. Inside they found postcards from international cities.

A possible explanation, said Balian, is that "the defendant has someone in Europe who mails postcards for him."

The prosecution's case is circumstantial, based on

For Gerhartsreiter, it was the start of an odyssey across America, using the names Christopher Crowe, Chip Smith and Clark Rockefeller, a pretender to the fabled oil fortune.

A gaunt, bespectacled Gerhartsreiter listened quietly on Monday as Balian connected the dots of the defendant's later life.

Balian depicted him as a fabulist, a liar who made up extravagant stories about being a famous film director, the heir to a South African fortune and a descendant of British royalty. □

FBI says it has new clues in 1990 Boston art heist

K. Q. SEELYE

TOM MASHBERG

© 2013 New York Times

The FBI said Monday that it believes it knows the identity of the thieves who stole 13 paintings 23 years ago from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, one of the most infamous art heists in history. Officials from the FBI said they believed that the paintings were moved through Connecticut and the Philadelphia area perhaps a decade ago by a criminal organization. They declined to reveal any more about the identity of the thieves, saying the investigation is continuing.

The FBI is establishing a website, www.FBI.gov/gardner, as part of a publicity campaign to alert the public. That campaign includes billboards to be placed in Connecticut and Philadelphia, with reproductions of the paintings in hopes of prompting anyone with information to step forward. The museum is still offering a \$5 million reward for information that leads to the recovery of the artwork in good condition. It is valued at up to \$500 million. The bureau undertook a similar publicity effort a few years ago in seeking information about James (Whitey) Bulger, the Boston mobster who had been living on the lam for more than a decade. The campaign led to his arrest in California.

The announcement on Monday was intended to alert potential informants

beyond the Boston area, which has been obsessed with the crime since it occurred.

"We are expanding the aperture of awareness," Richard DesLauriers, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Boston field office, said at a news conference. He emphasized that the office does not know where the paintings are now. The theft occurred at 1:20 a.m. on March 18, 1990. A young night watchman let two men disguised as police officers into the museum after they rang the intercom at the service entrance and claimed they were responding to a disturbance. The thieves subdued the guard and his lone overnight colleague and locked them in the basement bound in handcuffs and duct tape.

The two men removed a total of 13 items in 81 minutes. Included were two large Rembrandt oil paintings that were cut from their frames; single works by Vermeer, Manet and Govaert Flinck; five Degas sketches, and three other items, among them a small etching by Rembrandt. The robbery ranks as the single biggest museum theft in history in terms of the potential sales value of the missing works. The FBI puts the figure at \$300 million, though others put it at \$500 million.

Over the last 23 years investigators have questioned the relatives and associates of about a dozen Boston-area criminals. □



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UCF: Student who killed self was planning attack

KYLE HIGHTOWER

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A University of Central Florida student planned an attack on campus but committed suicide in a dorm before carrying it out, authorities said Monday. Materials found in his dorm room made it appear that

30-year-old James Oliver Seevakumaran planned a wider attack, authorities said a news conference. Seevakumaran pulled a gun on another student, who then called police, said University of Central Florida Police Chief Richard Beary. He then killed himself with a shot to the

head moments later as police officers were responding to the call. "His timeline got off," Beary said. "We



ing Seevakumaran from the dorm before Monday. Four makeshift explosive devices were found in a

University of Central Florida police have identified James Seevakumaran as the student that killed himself in a dorm at UCF in Orlando, Fla., early Monday March 18, 2013. Seevakumara was found with several fire arms and a homemade device in a backpack. The incident caused the evacuation of a dorm building.
(AP Photo/Florida Highway Patrol)

anti-social behavior but had never expressed any violent tendencies, Beary said. According to Florida records, his only adult arrest in the state was in 2006 for driving with a suspended license. He pleaded no contest. He was fined \$105 and assigned court costs of \$223. University police were called to the Tower I building around 12:20 a.m. after a fire alarm went off. Around the same time, the 911 call came in about a man with a gun.

Investigators said they discovered two guns and the makeshift explosives in the room where Seevakumaran was found dead. About 500 students were evacuated from the building and morning classes were canceled. □

Jury deliberates in case of Mich. grandmother

ED WHITE

Associated Press

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — A woman "hunted down" her teenage grandson in her suburban Detroit home and shot at him 10 times over a six-minute span, ignoring his desperate pleas for help to a 911 dispatcher, a prosecutor told jurors Monday, urging them to convict her of first-degree murder. Summing up his case against 75-year-old Sandra Layne, prosecutor Paul Walton again played Jonathan Hoffman's 911 call last May in which he said his grandmother had just shot him. "I'm going to die," the 17-year-old said before he was shot again with the dispatcher on the line. There is no dispute that Layne, then 74, fired the shots in her West Bloomfield Township home, striking her grandson six times. The question for jurors: Should she be held criminally responsible for Hoffman's death and, if so, how?

Jurors deliberated for less than two hours before going home. They could acquit Layne based on her self-defense argument or convict her of first-degree murder, second-degree murder, voluntary manslaughter or involuntary manslaughter. Layne testified that she was

afraid of her grandson and acted in self-defense. She said she shot him after he struck her during an argument over money that he had demanded from her so he could flee Michigan. A drug test earlier that day had detected so-called synthetic marijuana, which could have triggered a parole violation. Walton reminded jurors that Layne didn't report any injuries to police when they arrived at her home during the shooting. "Not I was afraid, I acted in self-defense, he came after me," Walton said. "I murdered. I shot. I killed — those are her first statements to law enforcement. ... She hunted down Jonathan Hoffman because he wouldn't listen." He called it a "massacre." Walton said Hoffman had made plans to attend a bonfire that night with friends, not escape in Layne's car. "Her glasses aren't askew. Her makeup isn't smudged. No injuries to her face. ... If there's a self-defense claim here it belongs to Jonathan Hoffman, not Sandra Layne," the prosecutor said.

Defense attorney Jerome Sabbota urged jurors to acquit Layne, asking them to view the incident through the eyes of a woman in her 70s. □

think the rapid response of law enforcement may have changed his ability to think quickly on his feet." UCF spokesman Grant Heston said the university was in the process of remov-

back pack, and Beary said he believes that Seevakumaran pulled a fire alarm in the dorm to get other students out in the open for an attack. Seevakumaran's roommates told detectives that he had shown



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Ahead of Obama visit:

Israel sending mixed signals on peace

JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Ahead of the arrival of President Barack Obama on a high-profile Mideast mission, Israel's new government on Monday sent mixed messages about pursuing peace with the Palestinians. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a speech to parliament that his hand is outstretched in peace and that he is ready for a "historic compromise," but one of his closest allies called hopes for peace "delusional."

The conflicting signals gave a glimpse of the infighting that is likely to hinder the government if Netanyahu, who has historically been reluctant to make serious concessions to the Palestinians, decides to launch any new diplomatic initiatives. "The rhetoric about peace is one thing and doing peace is something else. Doing peace requires deeds," Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said of the new Israeli government.

Well aware of the large gaps between the sides, Obama has been careful to lower expectations for the 48-hour visit, which begins Wednesday. The White House has already said he will not bring any bold new initiatives. He will leave the details of diplomacy to his secretary of state, John Kerry, who is expected in the region in the coming weeks.

Instead, Obama plans to meet separately with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in hopes of finding some common ground. Toward

that goal, the White House confirmed Monday that the president has added a third, previously unscheduled meeting with Netanyahu on Thursday, immediately after returning from talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank. There are no plans for the three to meet together.

now inhabited by more than 500,000 Israelis, is a sign of bad faith. The Palestinians say the pre-1967 lines should be the basis for a future border. Early in his term, Obama persuaded Israel to impose a partial freeze on settlement construction, allowing talks to resume briefly in late 2010, toward the end of the Is-

raeli moratorium. Netanyahu refused to extend the freeze, and negotiations collapsed weeks later. A frustrated Obama later backed off his calls for a halt in settlement building, leaving the Palestinians disillusioned.

Netanyahu says negotiations should resume without preconditions. Since winning re-election in January, Netanyahu has pledged to make a new push for peace.

"We extend our hand in

peace to the Palestinians," Netanyahu said in Monday's speech, delivered shortly before his new Cabinet was sworn into office. "With a Palestinian partner that is willing to hold negotiations in good will, Israel will be ready for a historic compromise that will end the conflict with the Palestinians once and for all."



Students of Estella's school for bakery and pastry making, work on an image depicting U.S. President Barack Obama made out of chocolate in Givat Shmuel, central Israel, Monday, March 18, 2013. (AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

raeli moratorium. Netanyahu refused to extend the freeze, and negotiations collapsed weeks later. A frustrated Obama later backed off his calls for a halt in settlement building, leaving the Palestinians disillusioned.

Netanyahu says negotiations should resume without preconditions. Since winning re-election in January, Netanyahu has pledged to make a new push for peace.

"We extend our hand in

Pakistan:
Militants kill 4
in attack on
court complex

DECLAN WALSH

© 2013 New York Times

ISLAMABAD — Militants stormed a court complex in northwestern Pakistan on Monday, killing 4 people and wounding at least 30 people, including a judge, in the latest assault on government authority in the region.

The attack at the court complex in Peshawar, the regional capital, triggered a fierce gunbattle with the security forces during which the militants briefly held hostages, according to the provincial information minister, Mian Iftikhar Hussain.

The militants may have been seeking to free fellow extremists who were being held on the court complex, Hussain said.

Police shot dead one suicide bomber at the court gates before he could detonate his vest, said Jawed Marwat, a senior city official.

But a second bomber managed to enter a courtroom and set off his explosives, killing at least two court officials.

The female presiding judge, Kulsoom Afridi, was in her chambers at the time of the attack, but also sustained serious injuries.

Television footage showed terrified people fleeing the court complex during the attack. Judges, court officials and members of the public took refuge in the court basement, locking the doors from the inside, said one court official. □



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Cyprus delays parliamentary vote on savings seizures

M. HADJICOSTIS
Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A plan to seize up to 10 percent of people's savings in the small Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus sent shockwaves across Europe on Monday as households realized the money they have in the bank may not be safe.

A weekend agreement between Cyprus and its European partners called for the government to raid bank accounts as part of a €15.8 billion (\$20.4 billion) financial bailout, the first time in the eurozone's crisis that the prospect of seizing individuals' savings has been raised.

Facing outrage, Cypriot authorities delayed a parliamentary vote on the seizure and ordered banks to remain shut until Thursday while it tries to modify the deal to reduce the hit on people with small deposits. Several hundred protesters gathered outside the parliament building, with some chanting "thieves, thieves" and "people wake up, they're drinking your blood." One demonstrator dumped sheep wool and animal feces in front of a line of police officers guarding the entrance. Protesters later marched onto the presidential palace.

"It's a precedent for all European countries. Their money in every bank is not safe," said lawyer Simos Angelides.

In order to get €10 billion (\$13 billion) in bailout loans from international creditors, Cyprus agreed to take a percentage of all deposits — including ordinary citizens' savings. The surprise deal stoked fears that deposits in other countries

could be targeted. Financial stocks fell sharply across euro, as did the euro, even though the Cypriot economy accounts

One solution doing the rounds is to make the tax more graduated: placing a one-time 3 percent levy on deposits below €100,000,

liament President Martin Schulz is exempting savings up to €25,000 from the tax. Schulz is also a member of Germany's opposition So-

ment after some 25 lawmakers from communist AKEL, socialist EDEK and the Green party said they would vote down the levy that they have criticized as disastrous. Even center right party DIKO, a government ally which holds eight seats, is wavering over its support.

Any modification to the deposit seizure must be approved by the other finance ministers in the eurozone — who will hold a phone conference later Monday — before the Cypriot parliament can vote on it.

The stakes are high for the country of a million people, because a rejection of the package could see the country go bankrupt and possibly out of the common euro currency. Officials also fear a run on Cypriot banks no matter which way the voting goes, though immediate consequences for other eurozone countries are limited. □



A woman holds a banner during a protest outside of the parliament in Nicosia, Cyprus, Monday, March 18, 2013. A vote on a bailout package for Cyprus that includes an immediate tax on all savings accounts has been postponed until Tuesday evening. (AP Photo/Petros Karadjias)

for only 0.2 percent of the combined output of the 17 European Union countries that use the currency.

"The damage is done," said Louise Cooper, who heads financial research firm CooperCity. "Europeans now know that their savings could be used to bail out banks."

The Cypriot government is now trying to modify the terms of the original plan and in particular to get a better deal for small savers with less than €100,000. The weekend deal foresaw a one-off charge of 6.75 percent on those savings, rising to 9.9 percent for those above the €100,000 mark. While trying to make the package more appetizing for those with low savings, the government has to make sure that the total raised remains the same at €5.8 billion.

rising to 15 percent for those above €500,000.

Another alternative pitched by European Par-

cial Democrats.

Still, the government has a battle to get a majority in the 56-member Parlia-



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Pope Francis meets Argentine leader after frosty ties

NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis' diplomatic skills were put to the test Monday as his political nemesis, Argentine President Cristina Fernandez, asked him in his inaugural audience with a head of state to intervene in the dispute with Britain over the Falkland Islands.

There was no immediate comment from the Vatican as to whether the Argentine-born Francis would accept her request, which was made during a meeting and lunch with Fernan-

dez on the eve of his installation as pope. But the British Foreign Office made clear that there was no place for Vatican intervention in the dispute. "The Holy See is clear that it considers the question of the Falkland Islands as a bilateral one between sovereign nations, and that it does not have a role to play. We do not expect that position to change," the Foreign Office said in a statement. Francis and Fernandez are longtime rivals: As leader of Argentina's Catholics, he had accused her populist government of

demagoguery, while she called his position on gay adoptions reminiscent of the Middle Ages and the Inquisition.

But where the Falklands are concerned, Francis has been quoted as saying that Britain "usurped" the remote islands, which

to remain as a British Overseas Territory."

In asking Francis to intervene, Fernandez said she recalled how Pope John Paul II averted war in 1978 between Argentina and Chile over three tiny islands in the Beagle Channel at the southern tip of



Pope Francis meets Argentine President Cristina Fernandez at the Vatican, Monday, March 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

Argentina claims and calls the Malvinas. Argentina and Britain fought a 1982 war over the islands. Earlier this month, the islanders voted overwhelmingly to remain a British Overseas Territory. Fernandez told journalists Monday after having lunch with the pope that she had asked for Francis' intercession to "facilitate dialogue" with Britain over the islands.

Just last week, British Prime Minister David Cameron said he didn't agree with Francis' views on the Falklands. And on Monday, the Foreign Office recalled the referendum results in its statement, saying: the vote "sent a clear message around the world that the people of the islands want

South America. With military governments on both sides poised for battle, he sent his personal envoy to mediate the crisis through shuttle diplomacy between Santiago and Buenos Aires, and eventually brought both governments to the Vatican to consider his compromise.

The conflict wasn't entirely resolved until after democracy returned to Argentina, and both sides signed a "treaty of peace and friendship" at the Vatican in 1984, giving the islands to Chile but maritime rights to Argentina. On Monday, Fernandez gave Francis a picture of a marble monument honoring the 30th anniversary of John Paul II's negotiations, and then

used the opportunity to bring up the issue of sovereignty over the Falklands. They also seemed to have patched up their relationship.

Fernandez gave the new pope a mate gourd and straw, to hold the traditional Argentine tea that Francis loves, and he gave her a kiss. "Never in my life has a pope kissed me!" Fernandez said afterward. Fernandez called on the former Archbishop of Buenos Aires at his temporary home, the Vatican hotel on the edge of the Vatican gardens, and the two later had lunch together, a day before she and other world leaders attend his installation Mass in St. Peter's Square that some estimates say could bring 1 million people to Rome.

The Vatican on Monday released details of the Mass, saying it would be a simplified version of the 2005 installation Mass that brought Pope Benedict XVI to the papacy, with many gestures to Eastern rite Catholics and Orthodox Christians in a sign of church unity. The Vatican also released details of Francis' coat of arms and official ring, both of which are in keeping with his simple style and harking back to popes past: The coat of arms is the same Jesuit-inspired one he used as archbishop of Buenos Aires, while the ring was once offered to Pope Paul VI, who presided over the second half of the Second Vatican Council, the church meetings that modernized the church. □

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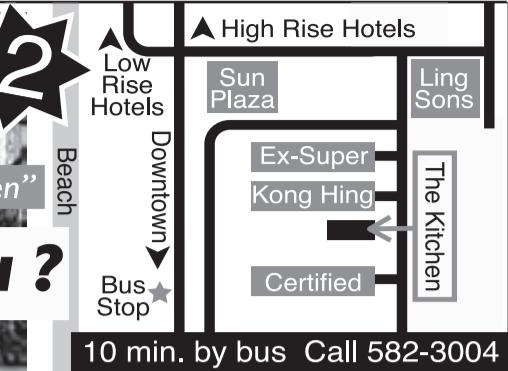
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Grenada to start inquest on Canadian man's death

DAVID McFADDEN

LINDA STRAKER

Associated Press

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada

(AP) — Grenada will hold a coroner's inquest into the December 2011 death of a Canadian man after a judge quashed manslaughter charges against five police officers accused of beating him into a fatal coma in a cell, authorities said Monday.

Relatives say Oscar Bartholomew and his wife were visiting his native Grenada for the Christmas holidays when they stopped at the St. David's police station so she could use the bathroom. While his wife was inside, they say he mistook a plainclothes female police officer for an old friend and bear-hugged her in front of the station in a southeastern

corner of the island.

A group of male officers rushed out of the station when the plainclothes policewoman shouted "Rape!" Prosecutors allege the officers detained the 39-year-old Toronto carpenter and beat him in a holding cell. Relatives have accused police of leaving him bleeding in the cell for hours that Dec. 26 afternoon before calling an ambulance at the insistence of his wife.

An independent autopsy found that Bartholomew died of trauma to the head and sustained multiple injuries to his body. A state autopsy report came to similar conclusions.

But on Friday, a high court justice withdrew the criminal charges against the five officers accused of beating Bartholomew. □

Dominican police: women paid to accuse US senator

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) —

Three women were paid to falsely claim in videotaped interviews that they had sex for money with a U.S. senator in the Dominican Republic, a spokesman for the police said Monday.

The women, whose claims generated media attention in the United States, were hired by a Dominican attorney to make the videotaped statements, spokesman Maximo Baez told reporters. Two of the women received about \$425 and the other was paid about \$300, he said.

Authorities are seeking to interrogate the attorney, Melanio Figueroa, about the payments and have not determined his motive or whether he was in turn paid by someone else to set up the interviews, Baez

said.

The women have not been detained.

The police spokesman was making his most detailed comments to date on an investigation into the source of allegations that U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez had sex with prostitutes, including two who were underage at the time, while in the Dominican Republic with his friend and campaign contributor, Dr. Salomon Melgen, a south Florida doctor, and with Vinicio Castillo Seman, an attorney whose family is politically prominent in the Dominican Republic. Castillo and Menendez have denied hiring prostitutes. Castillo, a cousin of Melgen, requested the investigation into what he said were "false and defamatory" accusations. □

Turkey:

Man charged in NYC woman's death

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — A

man suspected of killing a New York City woman in Istanbul has been charged with murder and ordered

reported her missing. She was vacationing alone in the city and exploring her photography hobby. She had planned to travel to

Turkey-Syria border after being on the run for more than a month, mostly while hiding in Syria, officials said.

There were conflicting reports about his arrest, with Turkey's interior minister saying Tasali was detained as he entered Turkey, and the Istanbul police chief suggesting he was nabbed in Syria in an operation by Syrian rebels in cooperation with Turkish officials.

The suspect was taken to Istanbul, where a court questioned him and charged him on Monday with murder, according to the state-run Anadolu agency. A trial date will be set after prosecutors prepare an indictment detailing the charges.

The maximum penalty for murder in Turkey is life imprisonment.

Anadolu reported that Tasali — described as a homeless scrap paper collector — allegedly admitted while being questioned by prosecutors that he attacked Sierra while under the influence of vapors from inhaling paint thinner, then fled the scene.

Sierra disappeared the day she was due to fly home, and her body was found hidden near the remnants of the city



Police officers escort a Turkish man identified only as Ziya T., suspected of killing New York City woman Sarai Sierra who died from a fatal blow to the head in Istanbul in January, outside a security office in Istanbul, Turkey, Monday, March 18, 2013.

(AP Photo)

to remain in custody until his trial, the state-run news agency reported.

Sarai Sierra, a 33-year-old mother of three, was found dead near Istanbul's ancient city walls on Feb. 2, 12 days after her family

Turkey with a friend, but that person canceled for financial reasons.

Authorities said Sierra died of a blow to the head.

The suspect, identified as 46-year-old Ziya Tasali, was caught Sunday near the

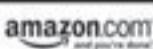
walls.

Istanbul police identified Tasali as a prime suspect in the slaying after blood and DNA samples extracted from the victim's nails closely matched those taken from his siblings. □

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India:

6 accused of raping tourist charged

C. NGASHANGVA
Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Six men accused of raping a Swiss tourist who was cycling with her husband in central India were produced in court Monday and charged with gang rape. The suspects appeared in the magistrate's court in Madhya Pradesh state with their faces covered with black cloth, police superintendent Chandra Shekhar Solanki said.

It was not clear how they pleaded in court, but during their arrest Sunday they confessed to the crime, police said. The men, who are poor farmers from nearby villages, also face additional charges of robbing the Swiss couple.

The attack, which occurred Friday night as the couple camped in a forest in Datia district, came three months after the fatal gang rape of a woman on a New Delhi bus which spurred outrage over the treatment of women in Indian society and the country's justice system.

The Swiss couple told police that the woman had been raped by seven or eight men, but that it was dark and they could not be sure of the exact number.

The men beat up the husband, tied him to a tree before raping the woman, police said. They also stole the couple's cellphone, laptop computer and 10,000 rupees (\$185). Police said they recovered the laptop and phone from one of the suspects.

The Swiss tourists were on a three-month India holiday and had visited the temple town of Orchha. They were planning to cycle to Agra to visit the Taj Mahal, about 210 kilometers (130 miles) away.

They set out from Orchha on Friday and pitched their tent in the forest near Jatia village when they were attacked by men armed with sticks, police said.

Last month, the Swiss government issued a travel no-

tion and phone calls to the Swiss Embassy went unanswered.

Indian Tourism Minister K. Chiranjeevi met the Swiss ambassador to assure him that the victim would receive justice, a statement from his office said. Chiranjeevi also said the Indian government needs to do more to ensure that tourists inform local police stations before venturing into remote areas.

After last December's bus



Five men, faces covered, who are among the six accused of raping a Swiss tourist who was cycling with her husband in central India, stand at a police control room in Datia, India.

(AP Photo)

tice for India that included a warning about "increasing numbers of rapes and other sexual offenses" in the South Asian nation, and the latest incident could prompt other countries to issue similar warnings.

On Monday, the Press Trust of India news agency reported that the 39-year-old woman said she will stay in India for now to help the investigation. There was no immediate confirmation.

attack, the government passed a law increasing prison terms for rape from the existing seven to 10 years to a maximum of 20 years.

The law provides for the death penalty in cases of rape that result in death or leave the victim in a coma. It has also made voyeurism, stalking, acid attacks and the trafficking of women punishable under criminal law. □

CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Government blasted for tourism decline

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaica's opposition spokesman on tourism says there are worrying declines in tourist arrivals from key markets. Opposition lawmaker Edmund Bartlett says that over the last quarter there have been visitor declines of 14% from Canada and 12% from the U.K. The U.S. market has been flat. Bartlett called the drop in arrivals to tourism-dependent Jamaica "alarming." In a recent speech, Minister Wykeham McNeill said persistently tough economic times in key markets like the U.K. and North America have "substantially affected" the local industry. But McNeill says a "transition" is occurring in the tourism industry. □

\$11M EU grant to boost food production

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — The European Union will award a Caribbean trade bloc \$11 million to help boost food production in the region and offset the cost of importing produce. The money will be disbursed over four years and will target mostly small-scale farmers in Cari-com's 15 members including Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The two countries account for most of the 26 million people expected to benefit from the agreement. The EU said in a statement that there is not enough locally grown food and that farmers are not always paid well. The grant also aims to help the region meet standards to allow farmers to export produce. □

Trinidad suggests military can help police

POR-T-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — The House of Representatives in Trinidad has approved a much-debated bill that would extend certain police powers to the military so it can help officers fight crime. The proposal still requires approval from the Senate, which the ruling party controls. However, the government still needs the support of four senators for the proposal to pass. Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar said that joint police-army patrols have been temporarily deployed with success. If the proposal receives final approval, soldiers in the eastern Caribbean island would be able to stop, search, seize, detain and arrest. □

DeVry investing \$31M in St. Kitts campus

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts (AP) — A veterinary school in the Caribbean is investing about \$31 million to develop and expand its campus in St. Kitts & Nevis. Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine was founded in 1982 and is now owned by DeVry Inc., a publicly traded education company based in Illinois. Bill Hughson is president of the healthcare group at DeVry. He said in statement from the St. Kitts & Nevis government that the new investment includes the purchasing of 24 acres of land that the for-profit education firm currently leases from the islands. Hughson made the comments in a ceremony in Basseterre, the capital of St. Kitts. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

At the Alhambra Ballroom:

The DCGA, the Dutch Caribbean Golf Association Hosts its First Event



ORANJESTAD - The DCGA, Dutch Caribbean Golf Association was just formed as an alliance of golf courses in Aruba, Curacao and St. Martin, under the direction of President Maurice Janssen and Secretary of the Board, golf professional Adam Williamson.

With seven golf-courses in the mix, three in Aruba, three in Curacao and one in St Martin, the association is all set to develop a variety of programs designed to attract more Juniors, Seniors and families to the

sport.

The strategy of organizing social events, golf events, training, development sessions, ladies' programs and junior programs, will enjoy professional support, thus making golf regionally more accessible to more people.

Most importantly, the promotion of the island as a golf destination is also on the DCGA agenda in collaboration with their counterparts in the Netherlands, the Dutch Golf Association which counts on the in-

volvement of thousands of Dutch golfers.

The launch party of the organization at the Alhambra ballroom, with minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar and local golfers of all ages, was sponsored by the Aruba Trading Company over bottomless flutes of Moet Chandon champagne, which set the tone for the festive logo reveal with Pierre Rafini on behalf of RBC bank, Alex Nieuwmeyer representing Divi's Divine Nine and Bas v/d Nieuwenhuijzen standing for Tierra del Sol.

The seven golf courses participating in the alliance, Tierra del Sol, Golf Resort, Country Club & Spa, The Divine Nine at Divi Links, The Aruba Golf Club, all three in Aruba, Blue Bay Golf Club, The Curaçao Golf & Squash Club, and the Old Quarry at Santa Barbara Curacao, and Mullet Bay Beach Resort & Golf Club, in St Martin.

Members of the DCGA include President Maurice J.W. Janssen, Vice President, Pierre Rafini, Club



Secretary, Adam Williamson, Club Treasurer, Stanley Looman, Regional Board Members, Aruba: Alex Nieuwmeyer & Bas van den Nieuwenhuijzen, Curaçao: Denis Muys, Jane

Weststrate & Daan Vos, and St Maarten: Keith Graham & Rodney Tackling. Pictured here the logo reveal, and the champagne reception at the Alhambra Ballroom. □

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Aruba Tourism Authority honors so many Loyal Guests!



ORANJESTAD – During the past few days the good people at the Aruba Tourism Authority have been making their rounds to several different resorts, honoring those guests who have been visiting Aruba for 10-19 and 20+plus years con-

secutively! The following are just a few of the families honored this week:

- The Alhart's and the Andrieu's honored at the Marriott Surf Club: Jonathan Boekhoudt with Aruba Tourism Authority

had the great pleasure to present the Alharts and the Andrieus with their "Distinguished Visitor" certificate to commemorate 10 consecutive years visiting Aruba. The Alharts came in 1970 to Aruba for the first time to celebrate their hon-



Beauty On The Beach

Virginia Rasmijn

She is married to a local and is staying at her family in law. This is her third visit and planning to stay in Aruba for a very long time.



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eymoon and since then have made 14 trips back to our island. The Andrieus first came to Aruba in 2003 and their top reason for returning is absolutely the weather. Featured with the honorees are Luzdary Leest from the Marriott and Jonathan.

- Gigantic group of loyal visitors honored at the Playa Linda:

Recently a group of 16 loyal visitors at the Playa Linda received their distinctive certificates in celebration of many consecutive visits to Aruba. The ceremony was conducted by Jonathan Boekhoudt, Aruba Tourism Authority rep in presence of Lerita from the Playa Linda.

The honorees are: Karen van Slyck, Maria and George Blair, Carolyn and Mike Blair, Stephanie Blair,

Michael and Barbara Françoise, Douglas and Joyce Jones, Nancy and H.G. Flinn, Gerald and Beverly Randall, and John and Joyce Norris. On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, "Masha Danki" goes to all of the wonderful Playa Linda honorees.

- Neil and Bettie Mosman honored at Casa del Mar Beach Resort:

Neil and Bettie Mosman were recently presented with the "Goodwill Ambassador" certificate. The ceremony was held at Casa del Mar and was conducted by Jonathan Boekhoudt with Aruba Tourism Authority together with Anthony Maduro from Casa del Mar. Neil and Bettie have been coming to Aruba since 1984 and love our island, especially for the wonderful people. □

Mrs. Peggy Drop honored by ATA at Aruba Beach Club



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very loyal and friendly Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba.

The honoree is Mrs. Peggy Drop, resident of Herminie, Pennsylvania. Peggy has been visiting

Aruba for 20 consecutive years. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-20 years consecutive years.

The main reasons why she keeps coming back

to Aruba are the friendly people, the beaches, the beautiful weather, and the local food.

The certificate was presented by Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority and Kenia Brito representing activities desk of Aruba Beach Club. □

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CASINO AND SHOPS

ATA honors guests Mike and Brenda Schumacker



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the pleasure of honoring two very loyal visitors of Aruba as Distinguished Visitors - Mike and Brenda Schumacker resident of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name

of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10-and-20 years consecutive. The honorees are members of La Cabana Beach Resort and have been enjoying the Island every year. Darline S. de Cuba repre-

senting Aruba Tourism Authority and Sharleen conducted the ceremony. Top reason for returning provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island", the great weather, and Friendly Aruban Hospitality. □

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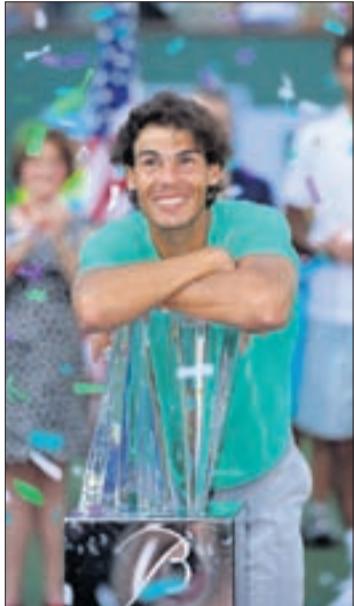
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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Nadal buoyed by comeback, rests after Indian Wells

Rafael Nadal, of Spain, poses with the BNP Paribas Open trophy after defeating Juan Martin del Potro, of Argentina, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, in their match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Sunday, March 17, 2013, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Rafael Nadal arrived at Indian Wells not believing he could win the tournament. A week later, the crystal trophy awarded to the champion was on the table next to him.

Nadal has been busy picking up trophies since he returned from a left knee injury in early February. The Spaniard has won three tournaments, including two on his favorite clay surface, and been runner-up in another after missing seven months.

"I did much more than what I dreamed," he said after rallying to beat Juan Martin del Potro in three sets at the BNP Paribas Open on Sunday, his first hard-court tournament title since October 2010.

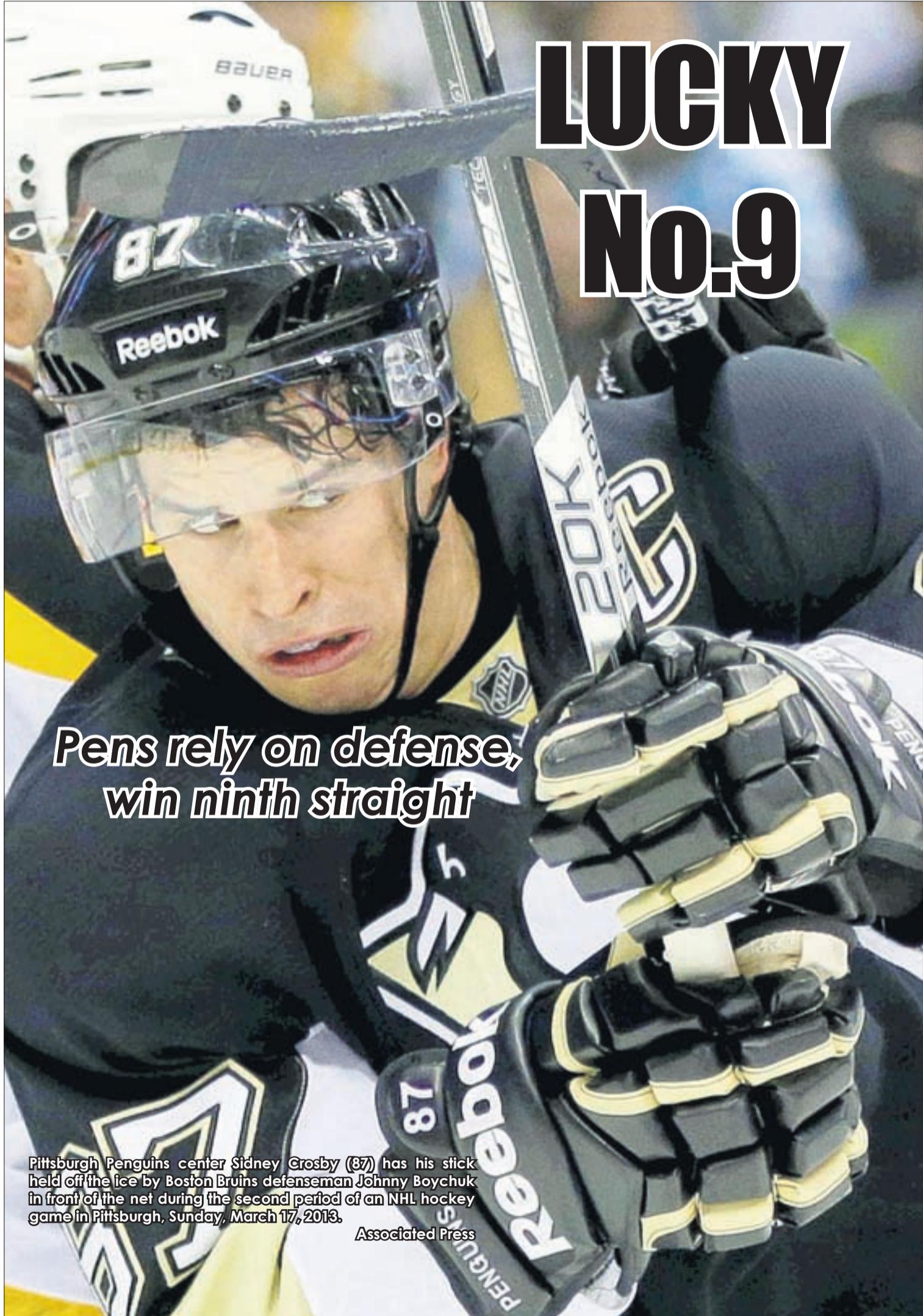
Continued on Page 18

LUCKY No.9

Pens rely on defense, win ninth straight

Pittsburgh Penguins center Sidney Crosby (87) has his stick held off the ice by Boston Bruins defenseman Johnny Boychuk in front of the net during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, March 17, 2013.

Associated Press



Nadal

Continued from Page 17

"Coming back is certainly something amazing for me, totally unexpected, and I received more support than ever from the crowd every place that I played."

Nadal is on the crest of a wave now after last summer's low point, when injury forced him to miss the London Olympics. He couldn't practice because of tendinitis in his knee and various treatments yielded little success.

"When you feel that you are doing everything and the results are not being very satisfactory, you go down a little bit. The doubt when and where you will be able to be back on a tennis tournament is hard," he said. "When you are there and wake up every morning and test yourself and the test is negative, it's not the right feeling, that's not nice."

Nadal tapes his leg just



below his left knee during matches, and he's taking things day by day. He withdrew from this week's tournament near Miami — where he pulled out of his semifinal last year because of his knee — on the advice of doctors.

He was told to go home and rest, and work on strengthening his quadriceps. He said he takes anti-inflammatories nightly

Rafael Nadal, of Spain, reacts after winning a game against Juan Martin del Potro, of Argentina, during their match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Sunday, March 17, 2013, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

because of his knee, and hopes he can play without them shortly.

He won't return to the ATP tour until mid-April on clay in Monte Carlo.

Nadal moved up one spot to No. 4 in this week's rankings, and Del Potro thinks he can consistently chal-

lenge the big three of Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Andy Murray soon. Nadal beat Federer in straight sets at Indian Wells. "Rafa can do everything. Not many players can do that," Del Potro said. "He's very strong mentally. His game is very good, very strong, very solid. He has big talent, as well. It's amazing how fast he's recovered the level."

Nadal was consumed by nerves in closing out his semifinal win over top-10 opponent Tomas Berdych, who lost 6-4, 7-5. Being away from competition for so long eroded his skill at managing the big points.

"Even if you practiced a lot at home, that was not my case, you need to compete to feel 100 percent ready," he said. "You need to compete to feel quick, recover the right vision of the points and the nice reaction in every moment."

Nadal said his Indian Wells victory was the most emotional of his comeback tournaments. □

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Penguins beat Bruins 2-1 to run win streak to 9

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Sidney Crosby scored his 13th goal, Tomas Vokoun stopped 31 shots, and the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Boston Bruins 2-1 on Sunday for their ninth straight win.

Joe Vitale added his first goal in more than a year for the Penguins, who have beaten the Bruins five consecutive times.

Tyler Seguin scored his 10th goal for Boston, and Tuukka Rask made 16 saves but couldn't stop the Bruins from losing to Pittsburgh for the second time in less than a week.

The Penguins scored three times in the final 7 minutes Tuesday to steal a 3-2 victory.

There were no dramatics necessary this time, as hockey's hottest team never trailed to remain unbeaten in March.

Pittsburgh, which moved into first place in the Eastern Conference — two points ahead of Montreal — has allowed just five goals in five games.

SENATORS 4, JETS 1

OTTAWA (AP) — Jakob Silfverberg scored twice to lead Ottawa over Winnipeg.

Guillaume Latendresse



Pittsburgh Penguins center Sidney Crosby (87) gets the puck behind Boston Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask (40) and Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara (33) for a goal during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, March 17, 2013.

Associated Press

and Kyle Turris added goals for the Senators, who got 25 saves from Robin Lehner.

Zach Bogosian scored the lone goal for the Jets. Ondrej Pavelec made 38 saves, but Winnipeg's three-game winning streak was snapped.

Trailing 2-0 heading into the third, the Jets finally beat Lehner at 3:26 as Bo-

gosian's shot from just inside the blue line made it through traffic and just under the crossbar.

Evander Kane had a great chance to tie the game midway through the period on a 2-on-1 break, but was robbed by Lehner, who made a great pad save.

CAPITALS 5, SABRES 3

WASHINGTON (AP) — Troy Brouwer had a goal and

an assist in the second period of Washington's victory over Buffalo.

Jason Chimera added his first regular-season goal in nearly a year for the Capitals (12-15-1),

who broke out of an offensive slump in which they had scored only seven times in five games — losing four.

Alex Ovechkin got the

Capitals going with his 350th NHL goal, scored only 19 seconds in, and Marcus Johansson and Matthieu Perreault also had a goal and an assist each as Washington beat Buffalo at home for the seventh time in eight games.

Cody Hodgson scored twice for the Sabres (10-15-4), who have lost five straight road games and have won just once in seven games overall. Brian Flynn added a goal the Sabres, who outshot the Capitals 30-25.

Washington busted out of its scoring slump with three goals during a 5:22 stretch of the second period.

OILERS 3, PREDATORS 2

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)

— Jordan Eberle had a goal and assist and Edmonton topped struggling Nashville.

Magnus Paajarvi and Lennart Petrell also scored for the Oilers (11-11-6), who have won three of four.

Shea Weber and Roman Josi had goals for the Predators (11-12-6), who have lost the first three games of a four-game trip.

The Oilers scored first in the second period and then added two goals in the third to win. Devan Dubnyk made 29 saves. □

Matsuzaka doesn't make Indians' roster

GARY SCHATZ

Associated Press

GOODYEAR, Arizona (AP)

— Daisuke Matsuzaka will not make the Cleveland Indians' opening-day roster but plans to remain with Cleveland.

Trying to make a comeback after pitching in just 11 games last season with Boston following elbow reconstruction surgery, Matsuzaka may accept an offer to stay in the club's minor league camp. The 32-year-old Japanese right-hander was trying to win a spot in Cleveland's rotation.

Indians general manager Chris Antonetti and man-

ager Terry Francona met with Dice-K and reliever Matt Capps on Monday and told both they will not break camp with the club. "We would like to keep both guys in the organization," Antonetti said. "Neither guy was set to make the opening day roster. We thought we would inform them now and let them know we want to keep them in camp to help them get back to full strength. If and when they do we think they both can help us."

Matsuzaka expressed an interest in staying with Cleveland. He will be paid \$18,000 a month if he stays in the organization at the

minor league level. Details will need to be worked out with Matsuzaka's agent, Scott Boras.

"This is the first time, I've been in this situation. I did not know what to expect," Matsuzaka said through his interpreter. "The teammates have been great; the staff has been great, taking care of me and helping me get better. I really appreciate what the organization has done for me." Capps hasn't decided whether he'll stay in camp, Antonetti said. Capps began last season as Minnesota's closer but shoulder problems limited him to 30 games. □



Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka, of Japan, throws to the San Francisco Giants during the first inning of an exhibition spring training baseball game on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Associated Press

Heat pull away from Raptors, win 22nd straight

The Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — The Miami Heat equaled the second-longest winning streak in NBA history, pulling away in the fourth quarter Sunday to beat the Toronto Raptors 108-91 for their 22nd consecutive victory. LeBron James had 22 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists, Dwyane Wade added 24 points and nine assists, and Ray Allen scored 16 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter for the defending NBA champions.

Chris Bosh finished with 18 points as the Heat equaled the mark set by the 2007-08 Houston Rockets. The record is 33 games, set by the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers. Miami will try to move into sole possession of second on Monday when it visits the Boston Celtics — who ended the Rockets' run five years ago.

LAKERS 113, KINGS 102

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Antawn Jamison scored 27 points, Metta World Peace added 22, and the Lakers won without Kobe Bryant, getting their sixth victory in seven games.

Bryant missed his first game of the season to rest his sprained left ankle, making a game-time decision



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade goes in for a dunk against the Milwaukee Bucks in the second half of an NBA basketball game Friday, March 15, 2013, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

to rest his aching joint. Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni used just seven players, but Jamison and fellow reserve Steve Blake took charge in the second half as the Lakers kept a one-game lead over Utah for eighth place in the Western Conference.

Isiah Thomas scored 26 points and Patrick Patterson had 22 for the Kings,

who have lost 12 of 13 on the road. The Kings played without DeMarcus Cousins, who has a bruised left quadriceps.

BUCKS 115, MAGIC 109

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Monta Ellis scored a season-high 39 points, including 25 in the fourth quarter, to rally the Bucks past Orlando.

Ersan Ilyasova added 20 points and 11 rebounds for

Milwaukee, which ended a three-game losing streak. Brandon Jennings had 15 points and 14 assists.

The Bucks ended the game on a 30-12 lead to pull out the victory over the Magic, who led most of the game. Orlando has lost seven of its last nine games.

Arron Afflalo had 24 points and rookie Maurice Harrell had a career-high 23 for the Magic. Nikola Vucevic added 20 points and 15 rebounds in the loss.

CLIPPERS 93, KNICKS 80

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chris Paul had 20 points and eight assists, Caron Butler added 14 points, and the Clippers beat injury-depleted New York.

Blake Griffin had 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers,

who steadily pulled away in the second half of their first home win over the Knicks since February 2009. J.R. Smith scored 17 points and Raymond Felton had 16 for New York, which played without All-Stars Carmelo Anthony and Tyson Chandler in its fourth straight blowout loss on a five-game trip.

The Knicks' Atlantic Division lead over Brooklyn dwindled to a half-game heading into the Nets' home game against Atlanta later Sunday.

WARRIORS 108, ROCKETS 78

HOUSTON (AP) — Stephen Curry scored 29 points, Klay Thompson had 26 with six 3-pointers, and Golden State stayed ahead of Houston in the Western Conference standings.

James Harden and Jeremy Lin scored 21 points apiece for the Rockets, who now trail the Warriors by 1½ games for the No. 6 seed in the West.

Golden State snapped a five-game losing streak to the Rockets and got some payback for a 140-109 loss in Houston on Feb. 5, the Warriors' most lopsided loss of the season. The Rockets scored a season-high point total in that one and a season-low point total on Sunday night.

Golden State also held Houston to season-low

point totals in the first quarter (10) and first half (31) and won in Houston for the first time since Dec. 31, 2007.

TIMBERWOLVES 97, HORNETS 95

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Derrick Williams scored a career-high 28 points and Ricky Rubio had 16 with six assists to lead Minnesota.

The Wolves got a lift in the final seconds from two players who hadn't seen appeared in a game in more than two weeks when Nikola Pekovic hit two free throws to pull Minnesota ahead for good, and Andrei Kirilenko blocked Eric Gordon's driving layup with 4.6 seconds to play.

Greivis Vasquez led the Hornets with 24 points and Robin Lopez had 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Minnesota shot 56.3 percent, but New Orleans stayed within striking distance largely because of its work on the offensive boards, scoring 20 second-chance points. Even on bad misses, Lopez was there to rebound or tip the ball to a teammate to keep possessions alive.

THUNDER 107, MAVERICKS 101

DALLAS (AP) — Kevin Durant scored 19 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter, Russell Westbrook had 35 including the go-ahead jumper with 1 minute left, and Oklahoma City beat Dallas.

Durant was 3 of 9 from the floor before hitting seven shots in a row during one stretch in the fourth.

Westbrook connected on a 17-footer to give the Thunder a 103-101 lead. With a chance to tie on the next possession, Durant forced Dallas into a shot-clock violation when he blocked Mike James' desperation jumper.

Thabo Sefolosha hit a turnaround jumper over O.J. Mayo to stretch Oklahoma City's lead to 105-101.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 23 points, including two free throws for the Mavericks to tie the score at 101 with 1:20 left. Dallas, however, didn't score after that.

MLS Roundup

Cooper scores in 90th, Dynamo beat FC Dallas 3-2



Houston Dynamo's Adam Moffat (16) grabs the jersey of FC Dallas' Jackson Goncalves (6) during an MLS soccer match, Sunday, March 17, 2013, in Frisco, Texas. FC Dallas won 3-2.

Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — Kenny Cooper scored in the final minute to lead FC Dallas to a 3-2 win over the Houston Dynamo in Major League Soccer on Sunday. Later,

the Los Angeles Galaxy and Chivas USA traded late goals following a disputed red card as the first meeting this season between the SuperClasico rivals finished in a 1-1 draw at Carson, California.

Cooper tapped a shot into the right corner of the net from the top of the box after Dallas squandered a two-goal advantage in the game's final 15 minutes.

Golden State snapped a five-game losing streak to the Rockets and got some payback for a 140-109 loss in Houston on Feb. 5, the Warriors' most lopsided loss of the season. The Rockets scored a season-high point total in that one and a season-low point total on Sunday night.

Golden State also held Houston to season-low

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Puerto Rico beats Japan, reaches first WBC final

JANIE McCUALEY
AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Even with a squad devoid of major leaguers and a mere six months to prepare his club, Japan manager Koji Yamamoto still felt immense pressure to continue his country's dominance in the World Baseball Classic. This time, under far different circumstances four years later, two-time reigning champion Japan couldn't pull off a remarkable three-peat.

Yamamoto took it personally. How could he not on a night Japan lost 3-1 to Puerto Rico after the tournament honored the WBC's two previous winning managers from his homeland? "Of course I have aimed for three consecutive winning championships, and I had some expectation that we would be able to do that," the 66-year-old skipper said. "But this is such a big international game, and it's been a while since I did the big international game. I did have pressure that I need to do this. However, this was a great experience being as old as I am. I was able to really feel the challenge of the match and being able to face this kind of challenge, it was really exciting."

Unlike the two previous WBC winners from Japan, this team lacked international star power without the likes of Ichiro Suzuki, Daisuke Matsuzaka and Yu Darvish.

"We were all domestic players from Nippon baseball," Yamamoto said. "It's challenging to get adjusted before the season, so as a team, despite the challenges, they really had the unity to fight the game." Hirokazu Ibata drove in the team's lone run with an eighth-inning single against

Randy Fontanez, but Japan missed a chance with a costly baserunning blunder — a botched double-steal attempt. It also had the tying run at the plate in the ninth but Fernando Cabrera closed out the win. The surprising Puerto Ricans first eliminated the star-studded United States, then took care of two-time World Baseball Classic champion Japan two days later in the event's first semifinal.

Now, Puerto Rico needs one more win to be WBC champion. Then, the country can throw a serious fiesta.

"We totally showed we can be the new team, the champion nobody expected," said Angel Pagan, center fielder for the World Series champion San Francisco Giants. "It means a lot, but not everything, because we're still missing one more win."

Alex Rios hit a two-run homer, Mike Aviles singled twice and drove in the game's first run, and Puerto Rico reached its first WBC final with a big assist from the bullpen.

Relievers Jose De La Torre and Xavier Cedeno each worked out of jams while pitching key moments after winning pitcher Mario Santiago left in the fifth inning with a forearm injury.

Team Puerto Rico will play in Tuesday night's championship against either the Netherlands or the Dominican Republic. Those countries meet in the tournament's second semifinal Monday night at AT&T Park. A Puerto Rico team that didn't even gather as a full squad for the first time until March 4 in Fort Myers, Fla., reached the championship round for the first time.

Aviles hit a two-out bloop single to center to put

Puerto Rico on the board in the first and singled again to start the seventh before Rios hit a towering drive into the left-field seats.

A beaming Rios rounded the bases and reached home to a line of jubilant, jumping teammates eager to celebrate.

"It was a very emotional at-bat," Rios said. "We're very proud of what we've done. It means a lot for us and to our fans."

The Puerto Ricans — who eliminated the U.S. on Friday night — certainly could have been road weary after playing the previous two days in Miami and making a cross-country trip to the Bay Area late Saturday, but Edwin Rodriguez's club looked nothing of the sort in stunning the favored Japanese.

Aviles' first hit ended 10 scoreless innings in the WBC for Japan right-hander Kenta Maeda, and Santiago didn't allow a baserunner until Ibata's single up the middle with one out in the fourth.

Puerto Rico played sparkling defense. Second baseman Irving Falu made a diving stop to his left to steal a hit from Yoshio Itoi for the first out of the fifth, then made another gem to end the eighth. That came after Japan's uncharacteristic mental mistake in which Ibata broke for third, then retreated to the bag as Seiichi Uchikawa already had neared second. Catcher Yadier Molina ran him down for the tag.

De La Torre walked the first batter he saw before back-to-back strikeouts. That sparked Molina to jump and pump his fist in celebration.

Puerto Rico eliminated a U.S. team of All-Stars with a 4-3 victory Friday in Miami and then sent Japan home



Puerto Rico's Angel Pagan, left, Jesus Feliciano (13) and Alex Rios celebrate after beating Japan 3-1 in a semifinal game of the World Baseball Classic in San Francisco, Sunday, March 17, 2013.

Associated Press

empty-handed for the first time in the event's short history.

After lining into a double play to end the second inning, Feliciano ran down Shinnosuke Abe's tough liner to left-center for the first out of the bottom half — with a noisy band playing just 20 feet behind him.

Maeda hadn't allowed a run over 10 innings while giving up two hits with 15 strikeouts in two wins in this Classic. He allowed four hits and one run in five innings. The two former WBC-winning Japanese managers were in attendance — Sadaharu Oh (2006) and Tatsunori Hara ('09) — and

each threw out a ceremonial first pitch, accompanied by Puerto Rican Hall of Famer Orlando Cepeda. Puerto Rico has beaten Japan in three of their four international meetings, including a 6-0 shutout on Oct. 8, 2011, in the World Cup at Panama when they last played.

Japan is 17-7 all time in the Classic. Chants of "Nippon! Nippon!" were appreciated.

"I really felt the warm support from the fans," Yamamoto said. "In this case, our opponent was really superior, both in pitching and hitting, and so we were cornered, in a sense." □

Rabies scare after transplant death

DAVID DISHNEAU
Associated Press

Public health agencies in five U.S. states are assessing the rabies risk for hundreds of people who may have had close contact with an infected organ donor and four transplant recipients, one of whom died, officials said this weekend.

About 200 medical workers, relatives and others were assessed for potential exposure in Maryland, where the man who received an infected kidney died, state veterinarian Katherine Feldman said. She said fewer than two dozen were urged to get the rabies vaccine as a preventive measure.

In Florida, about 90 people were identified as potentially exposed, and three were offered the rabies vaccine as of this weekend, state health department spokeswoman Ashley Carr said.

Illinois Department of Public Health spokeswoman Melaney Arnold said the only potential exposures there were people who worked with the patient or the transplanted organ. She said only the organ recipient is receiving rabies treatment.

Health officials in Georgia and North Carolina are also involved in the epidemiological investigation prompted by the Maryland man's death from rabies in late February, nearly 18 months after he got the kidney from a donor in Pensacola, Florida. However, officials in those states didn't respond to requests from The Associated Press about the number of people they're assessing. Doctors in Florida didn't test the 20-year-old donor for rabies before he died in September 2011. His heart, liver and other kidney went to recipients in Florida, Georgia and Illinois. They started getting the vaccine this month, and none has had rabies symptoms. A rabies expert unconnected to the case, Dr. Rodney Willoughby of Milwaukee, said they have a strong chance of surviving since they haven't shown

any symptoms.

Health officials say the virus can be spread through the infected person's saliva and mucous membranes, but human-to-human transmission is rare. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

to a civilian hospital four days later, said Defense Department spokeswoman Cynthia Smith. He later developed encephalitis, a brain inflammation that can have a host of causes, including rabies, but he wasn't tested for the dis-



The emergency entrance at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

(AP Photo/Charles Arbogast)

in Atlanta says there has been only one documented instance of transmission by a bite in the U.S. Feldman said Friday that the search for potential exposure subjects in Maryland was wrapping up. She said medical workers typically take precautions, and "we don't share saliva with that many people in our day-to-day goings about."

CDC spokeswoman Melissa Dankel said investigators are still trying to learn how the transplant donor got infected with the raccoon rabies virus that was found in his brain tissue and that of the Maryland man. She said the donor was an outdoorsman who might have been bitten by a wild animal in his native North Carolina before moving to Florida and beginning training as an Air Force aviation mechanic 17 weeks before his death.

He visited a clinic at the Pensacola Naval Air Station in August 2011 for abdominal pain and vomiting and was transferred

ease, CDC officials say. Smith said the airman died of severe gastroenteritis — inflammation of the stomach and small intestine — complicated by dehydration, electrolyte abnormalities and seizure.

The Florida Department of Health said he died of encephalitis of unknown origin.

Federal rules require organ banks to disclose any known or suspected infectious conditions that might be transmitted by donor organs. CDC officials say they don't know what information was communicated.

Federal guidelines published last year for evaluating organ donors with encephalitis urge "extreme caution" if the suspected cause is a viral pathogen, such as rabies.

Dr. Michael Green, a University of Pittsburgh professor who heads the committee that wrote the guidelines, said the guidelines hadn't been published when the Florida patient died. □

Study: Some can control HIV after treatment stops

ANDREW POLLACK
DONALD G. MCNEIL JR.

© 2013 New York Times

French researchers have identified 14 adults who have been able to control their HIV infection for years after stopping treatment with antiviral drugs, a finding that suggests that some patients might be able to achieve a functional cure. The report comes only two weeks after doctors in the United States announced that a baby born in Mississippi had apparently been cured of infection with the virus that causes AIDS.

In both cases, scientists said, a crucial element appears to be initiating drug treatment shortly after the infection occurs, though that is not always practical. In the case of the French patients, treatment began within several months of infection, faster than is the case for most adults.

The researchers, who reported their findings this week in the journal PLOS Pathogens, estimated that as many as 15 percent of people who start treatment early and continue for at least a year might then be able to control the virus without treatment, relieving them of a lifelong daily drug regimen.

Asier Saez-Cirion, the lead author of the study, said the French patients were in a sort of "remission" rather than being cured, because the virus was still present in their bodies, though at low levels.

Still, he said, figuring out why some people seem to be able to control the virus could point the way toward a functional cure by which people might live healthily without drugs even if their infection was not eradicated.

"This is proof of concept that we can induce this status in individuals who were not going to do so naturally or spontaneously," said Saez-Cirion, an assistant professor at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

Some AIDS experts agreed. "These people are not

cured, but they have some advantages that would be good to understand," said Dr. Myron S. Cohen of the University of North Carolina. One implication of the French study is that many people now taking antiviral medications might be able to safely stop. But doctors said the study did not provide enough information to predict which patients that might be, and that patients should not stop on their own. The patients in the French study started treatment soon after infection because many had symptoms that sent them to the doctors early, allowing their infection to be detected. Saez-Cirion said that most of the patients stopped treatment because they were in studies testing whether patients could take drug holidays. But some just stopped on their own, he said.

The patients were on therapy for one year to seven and a half years. They have been off treatment for four to nearly 10 years. Since stopping treatment, most have had viral blood levels below 50 copies per milliliter, which is considered undetectable. But some have had measurements of up to a few hundred copies.

A small number of people infected with HIV — 1 percent or less — are "elite controllers," meaning their bodies keep the virus in check without antiviral drugs. It is possible that some of the French patients might never have needed drugs, but that will never be known because they started treatment so soon after infection.

But the French researchers say the patients, whom they termed "post-treatment controllers," were different from elite controllers. Post-treatment controllers tended to have very high viral loads soon after infection, while elite controllers are more likely to keep virus levels down, even at the start, the researchers said. □

'Premium' is subjective for YouTube's big networks

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP)— Machinima, the sprawling digital gaming network, could hang a McDonald's-like sign outside its Los Angeles headquarters: More than 37.4 billion videos served. That's how many views the Machinima network has generated. And it all started with one video.

Allen DeBevoise and his brother, Philip, acquired Machinima Inc. in 2005, but didn't start developing it on the then-nascent YouTube until 2007. One of its first series came from a user named "SodaGod." The series, "Inside Halo," served as a center for enthusiasm for the popular science fiction video game franchise. Six years later, Machinima has grown into one of the most successful networks on YouTube, a gamer hub composed of a little expensively-produced original programming, and a whole lot of user-generated videos.

While the land rush to stream "premium" original content is drawing an increasing number of video professionals to the Web, YouTube's swelling multi-channel networks are finding success — and enormous scale — with a more organic, bottom-up approach. "The programming model of the future, where I think Machinima plays in, is in connecting that whole relationship, where we don't think of it as either being user-generated or as being traditionally made by a professional creator," says DeBevoise, chief executive of Machinima. "We think it's a continuum and they both co-exist in the same world." Machinima, Maker Studios, Fullscreen and others have assembled broad networks each encompassing thousands of YouTube creators. They're dependably ranked among the most-viewed destinations on YouTube in comScore's monthly online video rankings. In February, Fullscreen drew 36.8 million unique viewers, 30.5 million tuned into Maker, and Machinima, with a leading



This image released by the online Machinima network shows a scene from the Premium episodic series "Halo 4: Forward Unto Dawn." Machinima has grown into one of the most successful networks on YouTube, a gamer hub composed of a little expensively-produced original programming, and a whole lot of user-generated videos. Associated Press

61.4 minutes per visit, had 21 million viewers. Each network averages around 2 billion views a month.

You could say that they're like the NBC, CBS and ABC of YouTube, but the more appropriate comparison might be to media parent companies. Only rather than having a few dozen cable networks under their global umbrella, they have 5,000 to 10,000 YouTube channels.

"We see ourselves as kind of the next-gen Viacom," says George Strompolos, founder and chief executive of Fullscreen, a company with 150 employees founded in 2011. "We think we're at the beginning of the opportunity to build a large-scale, sustainable new media business on the Internet."

Much of the conversation about online video has lately been dominated by Hollywood digital productions. But for every "House of Cards" on Netflix, there are dozens of less noteworthy attempts to bring television-style content to online video. These upper-echelon YouTube networks are interested in high-quality programming, too, but their model is more of a hybrid that places pricier productions atop a pyramid of user-generated videos.

"We feel like 'premium' is

so subjective," says Danny Zappin, chief executive and co-founder of Maker Studios, which uses two production studios and 300-plus employees to assist YouTubers in production and marketing. "What is premium? For us, we feel like it's an engaged audience who has a personal connection to the person they're watching. To us, that's more premium or more valuable than, say, high production value or a mainstream celebrity. Maker, Machinima and Fullscreen operate in different ways, but they and a growing number of YouTube networks all take the philosophy that there's strength in numbers. By gathering thousands of channels together, all — at least theoretically — benefit from shared production tools, greater exposure and ultimately, hopefully larger advertising dollars.

"The difficult thing about YouTube and producing content for YouTube is when it's just for one channel, it's hard to reach a level of scale of viewership to make economic sense," says Zappin.

The most-watched network on YouTube is VEVO, the music video venture from Sony Music and Universal Music. In many ways, VEVO filled the gap for a mu-

sic video network left by MTV's programming shift toward reality television. Last week, VEVO made that comparison explicit by launching VEVO TV, a 24/7 broadcast stream of videos that effectively makes it a TV station sent through Internet and mobile phone pipes.

Machinima similarly benefits from television's oversight: With no competitors on TV, it's the most powerful gaming network around, and a major draw for 18- to 34-year-old males.

Premium episodic series (the \$10 million five-part series "Halo 4: Forward Unto Dawn" was watched 26 million times in just over a month last year) are pooled in its Machinima Prime channel. □

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Global markets rattled by Cyprus's bailout plan

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks closed lower on Wall Street as investors worried that a controversial proposal to seize money from depositors in Cyprus could set off another bout of anxiety over Europe's shared currency.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 62.05 points, or 0.4 percent, to 14,452.06 Monday. It had plunged as much as 110 points in the early going, briefly turned positive in the afternoon then fell back again in the last hour of trading.

The Standard & Poor's 500 fell 8.60 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,552.10. The Nasdaq composite dropped 11.48 points, or 0.4 percent, to 3,237.59.

European markets recovered most of an early slide and closed with modest

losses. Yields on government bonds issued by Spain and Italy edged higher and the euro fell to a three-month low against the dollar.

The market rally that has pushed the Dow to record levels this year has been punctuated by concerns about the euro-region's lingering debt crisis. The Dow fell 1.6 percent Feb. 25, its biggest wobble this year, after elections in Italy threw the country into political paralysis, endangering crucial economic reforms.

"Europe has got problems," said Uri Landesman, president of Platinum Partners, a hedge fund. "You could get more stuff like this and the market isn't priced to handle that."

A weekend agreement between Cyprus and its European partners called for the government to raid

bank accounts as part of a €15.8 billion (\$20.4 billion) financial bailout, the first time in the euro zone crisis that the prospect of seizing individuals' savings has been raised. The measures are stoking fears of bank runs in the other 16 nations that use the euro.

Cypriot authorities, facing an uproar, delayed a

parliamentary vote on the seizure and ordered the country's banks to remain closed until Thursday while they try to modify the deal to lessen the impact on small depositors.

Markets in Europe and Asia also fell during early trading, before retracing some of their losses later in the day. Germany's DAX index

dropped 0.4 percent and Spain's main stock index shed 1.3 percent. Indexes in Britain and France each lost 0.5 percent.

The euro fell almost a penny against the dollar to \$1.2954, touching its lowest level in three months. Gold climbed \$12 to \$1,604.60 an ounce.

The U.S. stock market's reaction to euro zone developments has become more muted over time.

The Dow slumped more than 8 percent last year between May 1 and June 1 on concerns that Spain and Italy would be dragged into Europe's debt crisis. While the Dow initially dropped last month in reaction to the Italian election results, it has since gained 4.6 percent. Likewise the market recovered much of the early loss Monday prompted by Cyprus's bailout deal. □



A view of the Bank of Cyprus UK in Charlotte Street, central London, Monday, March 18, 2013.

(AP Photo / Nick Ansell, PA

US builder confidence falls on weak supply, labor

ALEX VEIGA
Associated Press

Confidence among U.S. homebuilders fell this month because of concerns that increased demand for new homes is exceeding supplies of ready-to-build land, building materials and workers. In the short term, those constraints could slow sales. But builders' outlook for sales over the next six months has reached its strongest point in more than six years.

The National Association of

Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released Monday fell to 44 from 46 in February. It was the second decline since January, which was preceded by eight straight monthly gains. A measure of current sales conditions declined from February's reading. Readings below 50 suggest negative sentiment about the housing market. The last time the index was at 50 or higher was in April 2006. The index began trending higher in

October 2011, when it was 17. That increase coincided with the start of a housing recovery. An improving job market, persistently low mortgage rates and rising home values have helped fuel U.S. homes over the past year. New-home sales jumped 16 percent in January to the highest level since July 2008.

The combination of heightened demand and a tight supply of previously occupied homes for sale have motivated builders to ramp

up construction. Builders started work on the most homes last year since 2008. Despite the positive sales trends, many builders are facing higher costs for building materials and competition for land cleared for development. Some also are having trouble obtaining financing to buy land and cover construction costs.

At privately held Sivage Homes, which builds in New Mexico and Texas, customer traffic is up this spring and points to a better sales

season than last year. But the builder's difficulty obtaining loans to acquire and develop land means the sales gains will likely be only marginally better than a year ago, says CEO Michael Sivage.

"That's not a demand issue but a supply issue," he says. Banks were badly burned when land values crashed after the housing boom. Many have been slow to provide financing to smaller builders, many of which are short on land. □

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ST-Ericsson: 1,600 jobs to be liquidated

STOCKHOLM (AP) — STOCKHOLM (AP) — Swedish wireless equipment maker Ericsson and Switzerland's STMicroelectronics say they will lay off up to 1,600 workers globally as part of a plan for splitting up their unprofitable joint venture.

STMicroelectronics, one of Europe's largest chipmakers, announced in December that it wanted out of ST-Ericsson as it struggled with a downturn in global demand. After months of talks the two companies said Monday they had agreed to end the joint venture.

Ericsson said it will take on the joint venture's "thin modem" products, designed for smartphones and tablets while STMicroelectronics will deal with other existing products and related businesses.

The two companies said they will begin to shut down the remaining parts of the joint venture, with some 700 of the job cuts in Europe, mostly in Sweden. The formal transfer of the relevant parts of the joint venture to the parent companies is expected to be completed during the third quarter.

After the split up, Ericsson will assume about 1,800 employees and contractors, with the largest concentrations in Sweden, Germany, India and China, while STMicroelectronics will assume about 950 employees, mainly in France and in Italy.

As the result of the agreement, STMicroelectronics said it expects to incur cash costs of between \$350 million and \$450 million.

Also on Monday, the companies named Carlo Ferro as president and CEO of ST-Ericsson, effective April 1. Ferro, who will oversee the transition, currently serves as the joint venture's chief operating officer. He succeeds Didier Lamouche, who is leaving to pursue opportunities outside the company.

AstraZeneca restructuring will cut 1,600 jobs

LINDA JOHNSON

AP Business Writer

TRENTON, New Jersey (AP)

— Struggling Anglo-Swedish drugmaker AstraZeneca PLC said Monday that it will eliminate 1,600 jobs, mostly in the U.S. and United Kingdom, as its new CEO starts a major research and development reorganization. The cuts, meant to reduce costs and make research programs more productive, come just weeks after the company reported big drops in revenue and net income for 2012 and forecast continuing difficulties as generic competition hurts sales.

The job reductions amount to nearly 3 percent of AstraZeneca's 57,200 workers worldwide and are part of moves affecting several major AstraZeneca sites in the UK, U.S. and Sweden. Even the global headquarters will be shifted, from London to Cambridge, England, as the company moves many of its scientists near top centers for bioscience research. Rivals have been doing the same, to

be near those talent pools and to increase collaborations with scientists at universities and small biotech companies.

The changes, to be made between now and 2016, are expected to produce annual savings of about \$190 million by then. They'll result in restructuring charges of \$1.4 billion, about \$800 million of that likely in cash. "Given the limited financial benefits, this deal is really about improving science, and the ability to capture innovation and recruit top-

tier scientists," Citigroup analyst Mark Dainty wrote to investors. "The pay-off is likely to take several years to be realized but is evidence of sensible organizational change, in our view." In the U.S., AstraZeneca will scale back its site in Wilmington, Delaware, by about 1,200 jobs. That includes eliminating 650 positions and shifting 300 others as key functions are transferred to Gaithersburg, Maryland, home to AstraZeneca's MedImmune subsidiary and research on

biologic drugs — injected medicines produced in living cells rather than by mixing chemicals. AstraZeneca's global medicines development group, which oversees research on both pills and injectable biologic drugs, will move from Wilmington to Gaithersburg, as will the global marketing staff and U.S. sales staff for specialty drugs. Wilmington will still be AstraZeneca's North American headquarters for sales and marketing, with about 2,000 employees remaining. The other 250 jobs being cut in Wilmington include 80 going to a site in Waltham, Massachusetts, and about 170 going to other U.S. or overseas locations.

In the UK, AstraZeneca said most of the corporate and global commercial functions based in London will move to a new \$500 million center being built in Cambridge. □



Struggling Anglo-Swedish drugmaker AstraZeneca PLC said Monday, March 18, 2013, that it will eliminate 1,600 jobs, mostly in the U.S. and United Kingdom, as its new CEO starts a major research and development reorganization.

(AP Photo/K. Wigglesworth)

Airbus roars with record order

S. DiLORENZO

SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Airbus signed its biggest deal ever on Monday, an order from Indonesian's Lion Air worth €18.4 billion (\$24 billion) that President Francois Hollande said should inspire the struggling French economy and all of Europe.

The CEOs of both companies signed the contract for 234 planes in a ceremony at the French presidential palace, a sign of its importance to the government. At a time when layoff announcements are streaming out of French companies and unemployment is over 10 percent, Airbus said the manufacturing of the planes would happen in France and would involve 5,000 employees there.

"Airbus is a national and European pride, one of the pillars of our economy," Hollande told reporters. "The big Airbus contracts

are an example for our economy, what it can do, what it must do."

Lion Air is buying 169 A320s and 65 A321 jets. The first planes will be delivered in 2014 and most of them will be outfitted with a new, more fuel-efficient engine that Airbus has recently developed.

The airline is a major player in the Indonesian market and also gave Boeing its largest-ever order when it finalized a deal last year for 230 planes from the Chicago airplane manufacturer. Boeing is the archrival of Airbus, which is the civilian aircraft business of the European aerospace and defense company EADS. Some of the planes Lion Air bought from Boeing are the direct competitors to the aircraft it is buying from Airbus.

Both companies receive significant state support that is key to their success. That support is both finan-

cial — France, Germany and Spain are all shareholders in Airbus parent EADS — and more intangible, like Monday's use of the Elysee palace to hold a press conference.

Hollande said the success of Airbus should also inspire European countries to cooperate in other sectors. France, Germany and Spain are all shareholders in EADS and hold significant sway in it.

"Our ambition at the European level isn't to just continue the great EADS adventure but to also conceive of other EADS for other economic sectors with our European partners," he said. "Europe isn't just a market. ... Europe is also an industrial ambition."

The announcement comes as France is trying to convince companies that it is a viable center of manufacturing and persuade them to move or at least keep factory jobs there. □

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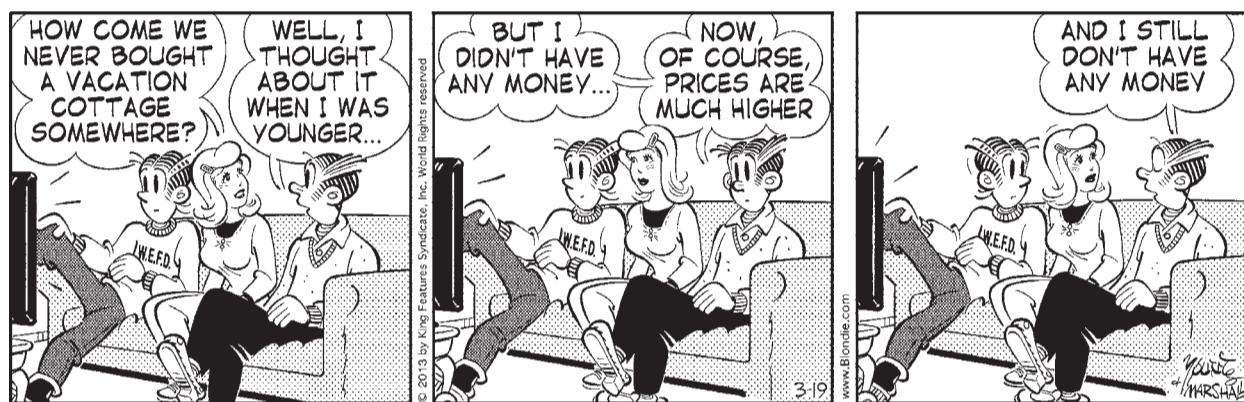
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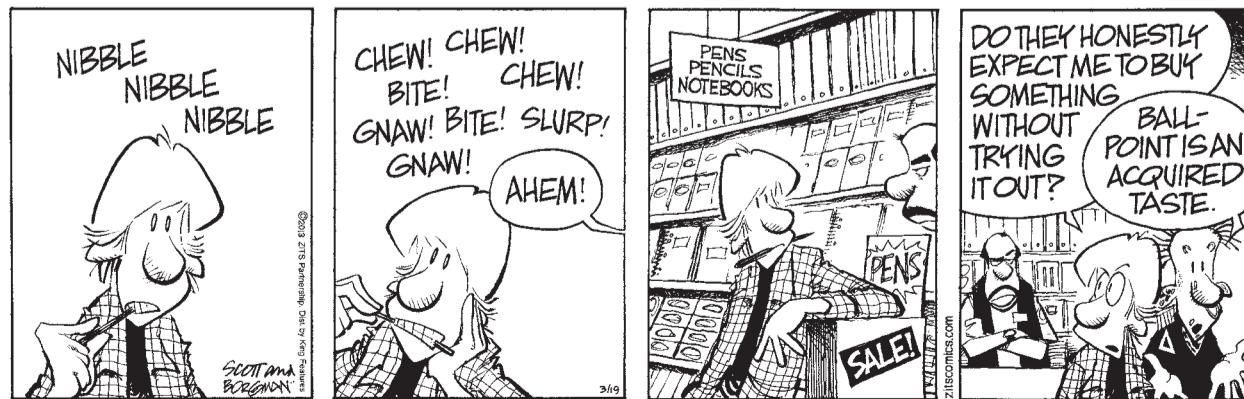
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1	5	7	8	4	6							
8			5								1	
	2		4									9
2		9	6	1								5
6			3	5								
3			7								4	
6	4	8	1	2	7							

Difficulty Level ★★

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3/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

2	8	1	4	6	7	3	9	5				
9	3	6	8	5	2	4	1	7				
7	4	5	3	9	1	2	8	6				
5	7	2	9	8	6	1	4	3				
4	9	3	7	1	5	6	2	8				
1	6	8	2	3	4	7	5	9				
6	2	4	5	7	9	8	3	1				
8	5	7	1	4	3	9	6	2				
3	1	9	6	2	8	5	7	4				

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16			
17					18					19			
20				21						22			
					23	24				25			
26	27						28			29	30		
31					32	33				34	35		
36					37					38			
39			40							41			
42		43								44			
45							46						
47	48	49					50			51	52	53	
54					55	56				57			
58					59					60			
61					62					63			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/19/13

Monday's Puzzle Solved

G	A	B	L	E	S	P	E	D	S	O	N	S	
A	P	R	O	N		T	A	L	E	T	U	R	E
M	E	A	N	T		O	I	L	S	R	A	K	
E	X	T	E	R	I	O	R	E	L	A	T	E	D
R	E	D	D		P	R	O	W	E	S			
B	O	N	S	A	I	L	A	T	C	H			
O	N	E	T	O	D	A	T	E	H	A	G		
S	T	A	R	M	A	K	E	S	T	O	R		
H	O	T	E	L	E	E	C	H	A	G			
M	O	S	E	S	R	A	D	M	O	R			
R	E	P	E	A	T	S	B	A	B				
A	L	U	M	N	A	L	I	M	T	I	N		
C	U	R	B	I	C	E	D	T	U	B	E		
E	D	G	R	A	V	E	A	R	I	S	E		
D	E	E	R	S	P	I	N	T	E	T	S		

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3/19/13

ACROSS

- 1 Big coffee cups
- 5 Remove the lid from
- 10 Quarrel
- 14 Wight
- 15 FDR's affliction
- 16 Goodyear product
- 17 in; exert control over
- 18 Quality of standing out from the crowd
- 20 Asner and Begley
- 21 Salt Lake , Utah
- 22 Sworn statements
- 23 "If the be known..."
- 25 Stir-fry pan
- 26 Hair-raising
- 28 Glittery stuff on Christmas trees
- 31 Gives temporarily
- 32 Is unsuccessful
- 34 Statute
- 36 Gung-ho
- 37 Famous
- 38 Fraternity letter
- 39 Final bill
- 40 over; studied intently
- 41 Stopwatch
- 42 Pompous one
- 44 Phoniness
- 45 Brewed drink
- 46 Rouse
- 47 Rub enough to make sore
- 50 Unusual
- 51 Hang ; surf
- 54 Tendency to go back to a life of crime
- 57 Commanded
- 58 Painting and dancing
- 59 One of the five senses
- 60 Egg on
- 61 "Phooey!"
- 62 Smile derisively
- 63 Gobbled up
- 64 Spend foolishly
- 65 Recolored
- 67 Facial center
- 68 Two-wheeler
- 69 Stacked
- 70 Ascend
- 71 Border
- 72 Requirement
- 73 Like a cloid
- 74 "The in the Dell"
- 75 "It ain't over till over"
- 76 Mover's truck
- 77 Early blossom

DOWN

- 1 Deep mud
- 2 Secondhand
- 3 Sparkling
- 4 Feinstein or Hatch: abbr.
- 5 Snoopy
- 6 Toward the Arctic
- 7 Fill to excess
- 8 Goal
- 9 Taro root paste
- 10 Porterhouses and T-bones
- 11 Two cups
- 12 Part of the foot
- 13 Golf pegs
- 19 Lunch hours
- 21 Pieces of china
- 24 Actor Fox
- 25 Untamed
- 26 in; wearing
- 27 Musical medley
- 28 Connected
- 29 Basic
- 30 In a little while
- 32 Knox or Worth
- 33 Gobbled up
- 34 Cautious



Classifieds

Obsessed fan who shot player, inspired movie, dies

DON BABWIN

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — She inspired a novel and a movie starring Robert Redford when in 1949 she lured a major league ballplayer she'd never met into a hotel room with a cryptic note and shot him, nearly killing him. After the headlines faded, Ruth Ann Steinhausen did something else just as surprising: She disappeared into obscurity, living a quiet life unnoticed in Chicago until now, more than a half century later, when news broke that she had died three months earlier.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed Friday that Steinhausen passed away of natural causes on Dec. 29, at the age of 83. First reported by the Chicago Tribune last week, her identity was a surprise even to the morgue employees who knew about the 1984 movie "The Natural," in which she was portrayed by actress Barbara Hershey. "She chose to live in the shadows and she did a good job of it," John Theodore, an author who wrote a 2002 nonfiction book about the crime, wrote in an email Sunday.

The story, with its elements of obsession, mystery, insanity and a baseball star, made it part of both Chicago's colorful crime history and rich baseball lore.



In this June 16, 1949 file photo, Ruth Steinhausen, 19, is seen at felony court in Chicago where she appeared for her hearing on charges of assault with intent to murder in the shooting of Philadelphia Phillies ball player Eddie Waitkus at a Chicago hotel on June 14, 1949.

Associated Press

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Tornado debris study could lead to better warnings

JEFF MARTIN

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Photos and mementoes that were snatched up and blown hundreds of miles during tornados in the south of the United States two years ago are giving researchers new insight on how debris is carried by the storms and how it could threaten the public.

A new study has documented how one photo traveled nearly 220 miles (355 kilometers) over Alabama and Tennessee, said John Knox, an associate professor of geography at the University of Georgia who led the research. That is among the longest-documented trajectories of tornado debris.

The slightly scratched snapshot, which shows a stream flowing through a mountainous landscape, traveled from the northwest Alabama town of Phil Campbell to the east Tennessee town of Lenoir City.

The study was recently published online by the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society.

It tracked the direction the



This aerial photo taken April 28, 2011 shows tornado damage in Pleasant Grove, Ala.

items traveled in relation to the storms that struck Alabama and other Southern states on April 27, 2011. The researchers analyzed the takeoff and landing points of the items using

geography software and mathematical models. Most debris fell slightly to the left of the storm's track. But the items that traveled the farthest were found to the right of the path.

Knowing where the debris is likely to fall could help protect the public if a tornado were to strike a hazardous site and suck up toxic biological or radioactive debris, Knox said.

"We need to get enough understanding so we can get fairly reasonable predictions of where the stuff goes," said John Snow, a professor of meteorology and dean emeritus at the University of Oklahoma who studied tornado debris in the 1990s. Knox's study builds on research done by Snow and others.

Though nuclear reactors are designed to withstand the force of tornadoes, radioactive materials such as

fuel rods are often stored nearby, Snow said. A direct hit on such material is one of many catastrophic scenarios involving tornado-blown debris.

Tornadoes have struck toxic materials in the past. In May 2008, a twister slammed into some of the mountains of mining waste that dot the landscape of Oklahoma's Tar Creek Superfund site.

Joshua Wurman, an atmospheric scientist who founded the Center for Severe Weather Research in Boulder, Colorado, was not involved in the Georgia research but thinks it could have benefits.

"Let's say a tornado struck some kind of toxic waste dump. Sure, some of the debris or dust would have some contaminants in that," Wurman said. "Understanding which direction those contaminants would go could be useful." The 934 objects studied by Knox and his students were posted on a Facebook page and later claimed by their owners.

Patty Bullion created the site hours after the tornadoes struck, when several photos and scraps of paper were found in her neighborhood in the northern Alabama town of Lester. She began posting the pictures on her site. Around 2,000 of those photos and documents eventually were claimed by their owners and returned to them. That gave the researchers a gold mine of raw data on which to build.

"I was very thankful that the page could be a help," Bullion said. "I never dreamed that it would send as many pictures home as it did and then help with research like that. God works in mysterious ways."

Bullion has since taken down the Facebook site. The items pictured there are highly personal, she said, and she didn't want them to be on Facebook forever.

The historic 2011 tornado outbreak in the South, combined with Bullion's social media effort, represented a unique opportunity for the new study, Knox said.

On April 27, 2011, more than 120 tornadoes caused more than 300 deaths across the South.

The items studied from the 2011 outbreak represent "just a small cross section of debris that just carpeted the Southeast," said Knox.

"What was amazing was that there was so much debris that went so far."

An earlier study on tornado debris by Snow and his colleagues identified only two objects that had traveled about 134 miles (215 kilometers). By contrast, the Georgia study identified 44 items that traveled a comparable distance or farther. The nearly 220 miles covered by the landscape photo sucked up by one of the Alabama tornadoes rivals the path taken by a canceled check from Stockton, Kansas, which was struck by a tornado in 1991. The check was carried 223 miles (359 kilometers) from Kansas to a farm near Winterton, Nebraska, according to records from the World Meteorological Organization.

Knox said the response from his students, who became co-authors of the research paper, was phenomenal.

Knox said he sought to teach them how to conduct the research in a way that was ethical and sensitive to the victims since the tornadoes destroyed lives and homes.

"Hopefully that's a message that the students will take with them," he said. "In this case, we had people whose houses were destroyed and the family members killed and the only thing they may have gotten back was a picture of Grandma and Grandpa that went 150 miles into another state." □

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Member of music group "The Spinners" dies

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — A former lead singer of the soul music group "The Spinners" has died in Orlando. A statement released Monday by the manager of the rhythm and blues group said Bobbie Smith passed away Saturday morning due to complications from pneumonia and influenza. He was 76.

The statement says Smith had been diagnosed with lung cancer in November.

Smith was the group's original lead singer and was the voice on their first hit "That's What Girls Are Made For." Also called the "Detroit Spinners," the group earned nearly a dozen gold records and half a dozen Grammy award nominations.

The group's biggest hits in the 1970s included: "I'll Be Around," "Could It Be I'm Falling In Love" and "Games People Play." □

Free E-'Da Vinci Code' offered until March 24

NEW YORK (AP) — Ten years and tens of millions of copies later, "The Da Vinci Code" is on the house. Doubleday announced Monday that a free e-book edition of Dan Brown's blockbuster novel will be available at online retailers through March 24. The e-book will include the prologue and first chapter of Brown's next novel, "Inferno," coming out in May. "The Da Vinci Code" was published March 18, 2003. It

has since sold more than 80 million copies worldwide. Doubleday also announced that Brown will make a single promotional appearance in the U.S. for "Inferno." He will speak at Avery Fisher Hall in Manhattan's Lincoln Center on May 15, the day after his new book is released. A livestream of his appearance will be shown at libraries and bookstores around the country. □

'Bible' producers dismiss Obama-Satan connection

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The producers of the cable TV miniseries on the Bible say Internet chatter that their Satan character resembles President Barack Obama is "utter nonsense."

Mark Burnett and Roma Downey said Monday the Moroccan actor who played Satan in the History channel series, Mehdi Ouzaani, has played Satanic characters in other Biblical programs long before Obama was elected president.

The connection got widespread attention after talk show host Glenn Beck last week tweeted: "Does Satan look EXACTLY like Obama? Yes!"

History said in a statement that the network has "the highest respect"

for Obama, and that "it's unfortunate that anyone made this false connection." "Both Mark and I have nothing but respect and love our president, who is a fellow Christian," said Downey, the "Touched By an Angel" actress who is married to Burnett. "False statements such as these are just designed as a foolish distraction to try and discredit the beauty of the story of the Bible." Beck has actually been a big supporter of "The Bible." The same tweet that pointed out the actor's resemblance to Obama urged his followers: "Don't miss it."

On Monday, Beck tweeted "Media — relax." He said the observation was "funny, nothing more" and that the series "is 1 of my fav shows. Keep watch-

Lindsay Lohan headed to rehab after plea deal



Actress Lindsay Lohan, center, and attorneys Mark Heller, right, and Anthony Falangetti, appear at a hearing in Los Angeles Superior Court, Monday, March 18, 2013.

Associated Press

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lindsay Lohan isn't headed back to jail — but she won't be free to party for a while either.

The troubled 26-year-old actress accepted a plea deal on Monday in a misdemeanor car crash case that includes 90 days in a locked-down rehabilitation facility that she won't be able to leave.

Lohan who has struggled for years with legal problems and been briefly jailed five times, pleaded no contest to reckless driving and lying to police who were investigating the accident involving the actress in June along the Pacific Coast Highway. A charge of obstructing an officer was dropped. Lohan also was found in violation of her probation in a 2011 necklace theft and

sentenced to 180 days in jail.

However, she can avoid jail time if she complies with the conditions of her plea deal, which also includes 30 days of community labor, 18 months of psychological therapy and an unspecified fine and restitution.

Lohan spoke little to Superior Court Judge James R. Dabney in court and said "yes" when asked if she accepted the plea deal. Before the "Mean Girls" actress left the courtroom, Dabney offered her a suggestion. "Don't drive," he said. Dabney did not set a date for Lohan to begin rehab. Instead he set another hearing for May 2, when the court must be given proof of enrollment in a treatment program. The sentence extends Lohan's probation for another two years. Dabney warned her that there won't be any discussion about putting her back on probation if she doesn't meet the conditions of the latest sentence.

Lohan arrived nearly an hour late for Monday's proceedings and was showered with confetti as she passed through a barrage of media to enter the courthouse.

The "Freaky Friday" star reportedly missed her original Sunday night flight from New York to Los Angeles, instead traveling on a private plane provided by a Los Angeles-based energy drink company for which she has made promotional appearances.

"Thanks Mr. Pink for the private jet see you all in a few hours in LA," she tweeted early Monday.

After entering the courtroom, Lohan sat for more than two hours as her New York-based attorney, Mark Jay Heller, and prosecutors ironed out the plea deal.

After a pair of arrests for driving under the influence in 2007, Lohan has resolved her numerous legal issues without going to trial. □



This undated image released by History shows producer Mark Burnett on the set of his miniseries "The Bible," in Morocco.

ing."

The five-part miniseries has been a big hit for His-

tory, reaching more than 13 million viewers for its first episode. □

'Oz' again tops box office with \$42.2 million

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Oz the Great and Powerful" is living up to its name at the box office. Walt Disney's 3-D blockbuster led all films for the second week in a row, taking in \$42.2 million according to studio estimates Sunday. Sam Raimi's prequel to the L. Frank Baum classic "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" also took in \$46.6 million overseas, leading to a two-week worldwide total of \$281.8 million.

In a winter of underperforming releases, that makes "Oz" easily the biggest hit of 2013 so far.

"Boy, did we need it," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "There have been a lot of box-office casualties this year. This is the shot in the arm that we needed, but we're still waiting for the marketplace to gain some sort of momentum."



This file film image provided by Disney Enterprises shows James Franco, as Oz, left, and the character Finley, voiced by Zach Braff, in a scene from "Oz the Great and Powerful."

Associated Press

The box office is down nearly 13 percent from last year. Among the weekend's debuts, the Halle Berry thriller "The Call" far exceeded expectations with a \$17.1 million opening for Sony and TriStar Pictures. The Steve Carell magician comedy "The Incredible

Burt Wonderstone" fared worse, opening with a disappointing \$10.3 million for Warner Bros.

The performances of the two new releases continued a theme of 2013: Movies targeting female audiences have had more success than male-driven

films. "The Call," in which Berry plays an emergency operator, was deliberately marketed to women, who made up 61 percent of its audience, Sony said. "Burt Wonderstone," starring Carell and Jim Carrey as rival Las Vegas magicians, sought a young male com-

edy audience that didn't materialize.

Female turnout has driven most all of the box office hits of the year, including the Melissa McCarthy comedy "Identity Thief" and the vampire romance "Warm Bodies." Macho films like Arnold Schwarzenegger's "The Last Stand" and Sylvester Stallone's "Bullet to the Head" have fizzled.

"Studios should take note," says Dergarabedian. "There's a lot of female power going on at the box office."

Opening in just three theaters in New York and Los Angeles was another film starring James Franco, who plays the Wizard in "Oz the Great and Powerful." "Spring Breakers," a dreamy trip of day-glo debauchery starring Franco, Selena Gomez and Vanessa Hudgens, opened with a strong \$90,000 per-theater average ahead of its wider release next weekend. □

The Hoff lends star power to Berlin Wall campaign



American TV actor David Hasselhoff speaks at an event in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, March 17, 2013, protesting attempts to move one of the few remaining sections of the Berlin Wall.

Associated Press

FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — David Hasselhoff put his name behind a campaign to preserve one of the few remaining sections of the Berlin Wall, calling it a "sacred" monument to cheers Sunday

from Germans who fondly remember his schmaltzy hit "Looking for Freedom" as one of the soundtracks to their peaceful 1989 revolution.

The actor, best known for starring in "Knight Rider" and "Baywatch," joined

ordinary Berliners in protesting a real estate developer's plans to move part of the wall to make way for an access path for a luxury housing development.

"It's like tearing down an Indian burial ground. It's a no-brainer," said Hassel-

hoff, before recounting his own memories of visiting East Germany — grim cities, grim food — shortly before unification.

Plans to move part of the East Side Gallery — a 1.3 kilometer (3/4 mile) stretch of wall painted by artists after the fall of communism and popular with tourists — sparked angry protests earlier this month. Activists have denounced it as part of a wider trend of steamrolling Berlin's tumultuous history to make way for gleaming but soulless developments in the heart of the city.

At least 136 people died between 1961 and 1989 trying to cross the wall that divided the communist-run East Berlin from West Berlin.

Most of the wall has since been destroyed, with only two large sections remaining as memorials.

"It's a stupid idea to rip parts of the wall out for luxury apartments," said Roland Junge, one of thousands of locals who accompanied Hasselhoff on

an impromptu walk along the wall Sunday.

"This last piece of the wall is really sacred," Hasselhoff told reporters. "It's about people and it's about hearts that were broken, hearts that were torn apart and lives that were lost. That's what we're talking about today, not a piece of real estate."

Asked if he thought his song — belted out by a million people on both sides of the wall during a New Year's Eve concert in 1989 — had played any role in bringing down the most visible section of the Iron Curtain, Hasselhoff said: "Whether it had anything to do with anything, it's a song about freedom and it stuck in their head because it had a good hook."

Berliners can prepare for a reprise if talks involving the developers, authorities and campaigners fail to reach a compromise next week.

"If it goes to the next step, we'll come back with a huge concert and really rock Berlin," said 'The Hoff.' □

The Dread That Is Ted



GAIL COLLINS

© 2013 New York Times

It is possible that the high point of this week in Washington came when Sen. Dianne Feinstein told Sen. Ted Cruz to stop treating her as if she were in middle school. Let me set the stage. First, pretend you're Feinstein. You started your political career in San Francisco. While you were on the Board of Supervisors in 1978, your colleague Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated in City Hall. You were the one who discovered Milk's body. You arrived in the Senate with an understandable interest in gun violence.

The ban on assault weapons you successfully sponsored has long since expired. You've been working on a new one for almost a decade, and, after the Sandy Hook slaughter, it looked for a minute as if there might be a chance.

But, as the immediate impact of the tragedy faded, the assault weapons ban lost traction. This had nothing whatsoever to do with the power of the opponents' arguments, which seem to get weaker by the day.

The big pitch of the anti-ban lawmakers is that people need assault weapons for self-defense. But there's a distinct shortage of examples when they've worked better than a normal rifle or pistol.

During a meeting of the Judiciary Committee on Thursday, Sen. John Cornyn of Texas tried to shore up the pro-gun side by offering nine "news stories of people defending themselves with assault weapons" for the record. The list spanned 17 years and included things like "tenant shoots intruder on porch."

If this is the best the ban opponents have to offer, Feinstein's bill should be passed by unanimous consent.

The other argument, which does not require examples, is that the founding fathers wanted Americans in the 21st century to be able to stock up on guns that can fire 45 rounds a minute.

Enter Ted Cruz of Texas, a Tea Party darling.

He's been in office only a few months, but he's made quite an impression. You may remember his suggestion that Chuck Hagel might have been taking money from North Korea.

Or his interesting theories about a United Nations plot to exterminate

nate American golf courses. Cruz said he had a question for the senator from California. "It seems to me that all of us should begin, as our foundational document, with the Constitution," he began, in a tone of that combined sublime pomposity with a total lack of actual curiosity. "And the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights provides that ..." He delivered an extensive lecture to the 79-year-old Feinstein. The question buried in the harangue was whether she could imagine listing exceptions to other parts of the Bill of Rights. He could not have asked it in a more patronizing way if he had illustrated his remarks with pictures of large, brightly colored stick figures.

"I'm not a sixth-grader," said Feinstein, before launching into a fiery defense. The bill, she noted, includes a list of 2,271 types of weapons specifically exempted from its scope: "Isn't that enough for the people in the United States? Do they need a bazooka?"

"She gave a new meaning to the phrase 'Leaning In,'" said her fellow committee member, Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

Later, Feinstein would tell CNN that she felt Cruz was being "somewhat arrogant," which seemed like an understatement. Even in an age of political polarization, there apparently is still an unwritten rule against calling someone "a stupendously irritating twit" on national TV.

In committee, Cruz sat sullenly while Feinstein gave her response.

"I would note that she chose not to answer the question that I asked," he said when she finished.

Other Democratic senators jumped in and pointed out some of the ways that other parts of the Bill of Rights were, indeed, limited by exceptions. Interestingly, none of the Republicans came to Cruz's support.

Do you think they ever take a vote for Colleague We'd Most Like to Avoid Meeting in the Elevator? I think we have a candidate.

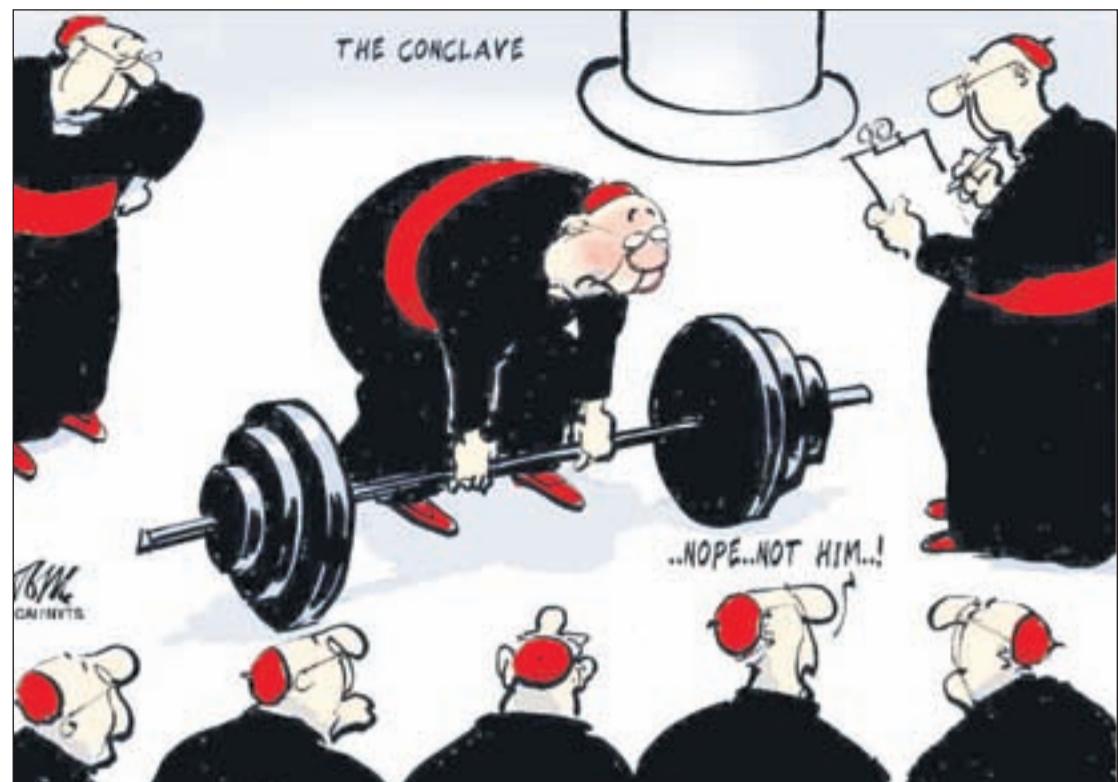
Then Cruz announced he wanted to "make four points briefly. ..." It's highly unlikely that a single person in the room wanted four points. And they were not in the least brief. But they were remarkable for their incessant self-reference.

"My fourth and final point is that the Constitution, in my opinion, should be the touchstone of everything we do. ..."

"I would point out that I am not unfamiliar with the Heller case. Indeed, I represented ..."

"In my view, the Constitution is particularly important. ..."

Do you think, people, that this is a key to the stupendous impact the Tea Party continues to have on Congress, even now that it's proved itself to be a loser when it comes to elections? If you combine a lack of a sense of humor with an absence of humility and then stir in a cup of self-righteousness, you are definitely not working on a recipe for cooperative achievement. □



How Movements Recover



DAVID BROOKS

© 2013 New York Times

The Catholic Church in North Africa was in crisis at the beginning of the fourth century. The Roman emperor Diocletian had persecuted the Christians, and many bishops and priests had collaborated with the regime. Priests had turned over Christian believers to the pagan magistrates. Bishops had surrendered Holy Scriptures to be burned in the public square. An air of corruption and lewdness hung over the church. Two rival reform movements arose to restore the integrity of Catholicism. Those in the first movement, the Donatists, believed the church needed to purify itself and return to its core identity.

The mission of the church, in the Donatist view, was to provide a holy alternative to a unclean world. The Donatists wanted to purge the traitors from the priesthood.

After they pruned their membership, the Donatists wanted to close ranks to create a community of committed believers. They would separate themselves from impurity, re-establish their core principles and defend them against the hostile forces.

The Donatists believed that, in those hard times, the first job was to defend Christian law so it wouldn't be diluted by compromise. With this defensive pos-

ture, the Donatists would at least build a sturdy ark for all those who wanted to be Christian.

This Donatist tendency – to close ranks and return defensively to first principles – can be seen today whenever a movement faces a crisis. Modern-day Donatists emerge after every Republican defeat: conservatives who think the main task is to purge and purify. There are modern-day Donatists in humanities departments, who pull in as they lose relevance on campus.

You can see them in the waning union movement: people who double down on history and their self-conscious traditions. You can see them in the current Roman Catholic Church, which feels besieged in a hostile world.

You can identify the modern-day Donatists because they feel history is flowing away from them, and when they gossip it's always about intra-community rivalries that nobody outside their world could possibly care about.

In the fourth century, another revival movement arose, embraced by Augustine, who was Bishop of Hippo.

The problem with the Donatists, Augustine argued, is that they are too static. They try to seal off an ark to ride out the storm, but they end up sealing themselves in.

They cut themselves off from new circumstances and growth.

Augustine, as his magisterial biographer Peter Brown puts it, "was deeply preoccupied by the idea of the basic unity of the human race." He reacted against any effort to divide people between those within the church and those permanently outside.

He wanted the church to go on offense and swallow the world. This would involve swallowing impurities as well as purities. It would mean putting to use those who are imperfect. This was the price to be paid if you wanted an active church coexisting with sinners, disciplining and rebuking them.

In this view, the church would be

attractive because it was hungry and thirsting for fulfillment. Far from being a stable ark, the church would be a dynamic, ever-changing network, propelled onto the streets by its own tensions. Augustine had this deep, volatile personality. His ideal church was firmly rooted in doctrine, but yearning for discovery. This second tendency is also found in movements that are in crisis, but it is rare because it requires a lack of defensiveness, and a confidence that your identity is secure even amid crisis.

Like most of the world, I don't know much about Pope Francis, but it's hard not to be impressed by someone who says he prefers a church that suffers "accidents on the streets" to a church that is sick because it self-referentially closes in on itself.

It's hard not to be impressed by someone who stands by traditional Catholic teaching, but then goes out and visits Jeronimo Podesta, a former bishop who had married in defiance of the church and who was dying poor and forgotten. It's hard not to be impressed by someone who ferociously rebukes those priests who refuse to baptize the children of single mothers.

It's hard not to be impressed by someone who seems to feel a compulsive need to be riding the buses, who refuses to live in the official residences, who sends his priests out to the frontiers and who once said he would die if locked away in the Vatican.

I'll leave it to Catholics to decide if Francis is good for the church. The subject here is how do you revive a movement in crisis. The natural instinct is to turn Donatist, to build an ark and defend what's precious.

The counterintuitive but more successful strategy is to follow Augustine, to exploit a moment of weakness by making yourself even more vulnerable, by striking outward into complexity, swallowing the pure and impure, counterattacking crisis with an evangelical assault. □

Rise of Latino population blurring US racial lines

HOPE YEN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Welcome to the new off-white America. A historic decline in the number of U.S. whites and the fast growth of Latinos are blurring traditional black-white color lines, testing the limits of civil rights laws and reshaping political alliances as "whiteness" begins to lose its numerical dominance.

Long in coming, the demographic shift was most vividly illustrated in last November's re-election of President Barack Obama, the first black president, despite a historically low percentage of white supporters. It's now a potent backdrop to the immigration issue being debated in Congress that could offer a path to citizenship for 11 million mostly Hispanic illegal immigrants. Also, the Supreme Court is deciding cases this term on affirmative action and voting rights that could redefine race and equality in the U.S.

The latest census data and polling from The Associated Press highlight the historic change in a nation in which non-Hispanic whites will lose their majority in the next generation, somewhere around the year 2043.

Despite being a nation of immigrants, America's tip to a white minority has never occurred in its 237-year history and will be a first among the world's major post-industrial societies. Brazil, a developing nation, has crossed the threshold to "majority-minority" status; a few cities in France and England are near, if not past that point.

The international experience and recent U.S. events point to an uncertain future for American race relations.

In Brazil, where multiracialism is celebrated, social mobility remains among the world's lowest for blacks while wealth is concentrated among whites at the top. In France, race is not recorded on government census forms and people share a unified Gallic identity, yet high levels of racial

discrimination persist.

"The American experience has always been a story of color. In the 20th century it was a story of the black-white line. In the 21st century we are moving into a new off-white moment," says Marcelo Suarez-Orozco, a global expert on immigration and dean of UCLA's Graduate School of Education & Information Studies.

"Numerically, the U.S. is being transformed. The question now is whether our institutions are being transformed," he said.

retirements will create a need for first- and second-generation immigrants to help take their place in the workforce.

The numbers already demonstrate that being white is fading as a test of American-ness:

—More U.S. babies are now born to minorities than whites, a milestone reached last year.

—More than 45 percent of students in kindergarten through 12th grade are minorities. The Census Bureau projects that in five years the number of nonwhite

other payroll taxes. More than 1 in 4 people ages 18-64 will be Latino.

—The white population, now at 197.8 million, is projected to peak at 200 million in 2024, before entering a steady decline in absolute numbers. Currently 63 percent of the U.S. population, the white share is expected to drop below 50 percent by 2043, when racial and ethnic minorities will collectively become a U.S. majority. Hispanics will drive most of the minority growth, due mostly to high birth rates, jumping in share

society in the future — one that provides equal opportunities and justice for all," said Daniel Lichten, a Cornell sociologist and past president of the Population Association of America. The demographic shift has spurred debate as to whether some civil-rights era programs, such as affirmative action in college admissions, should begin to focus on income level rather than race or ethnicity. The Supreme Court will rule on the issue by late June. Following a racially lopsided re-election, Obama has spoken broadly about promoting social and economic opportunity. In his State of the Union speech, he said that rebuilding the middle class is "our generation's task." Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., a rising star of a mostly white Republican party now eager to attract Latino voters, is courting supporters in both English and Spanish in part by pledging programs that would boost "social mobility."

Left unclear is how much of a role government can or should play in lifting the disadvantaged, in an era of strapped federal budgets and rising debt.

The Latino immigrants include Irma Guereque, 60, of Las Vegas, who says enjoying a middle-class life is what's most important to her.

Things turned bad for the Mexico native in the recent recession after her work hours as a food server were cut at the Texas Station casino off the Strip. As a result, she couldn't make the mortgage payments on a spacious house she purchased and was forced to move into an apartment with her grandchildren.

While she's getting almost full-time hours now, money is often on her mind. Her finances mean retirement is hardly an option, even though she's got diabetes and is getting older.

Many politicians are "only thinking of the rich, and not the poor, and that's not right," Guereque said in Spanish. "We need opportunities for everyone." □



Morning commuters fill the platform as they exit a train in New York's Times Square subway station. An historic decline in the number of U.S. whites and the fast growth of Latinos are blurring traditional black-white color lines, testing the limits of civil rights laws and reshaping political alliances as "whiteness" begins to lose its numerical dominance.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The shift is being driven by the modern wave of U.S. newcomers from Latin America and Asia. Their annual inflow of 650,000 people since 1965, at a rate that's grown in recent years, surpasses the pace of the last great immigration wave a century ago. That influx, from 1820 to 1920, brought in Irish, Germans, Italians and Jews from Europe and made the gateway of Ellis Island, N.Y., an immigrant landmark, symbolizing freedom, liberty and the American dream.

An equal factor is today's aging white population, mostly baby boomers, whose coming wave of

children will surpass 50 percent.

—The District of Columbia, Hawaii, California, New Mexico and Texas have minority populations greater than 50 percent. By 2020, eight more states are projected to join the list: Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey and New York. Latinos already outnumber whites in New Mexico; California will tip to a Latino plurality next year.

—By 2039, racial and ethnic minorities will make up a majority of the U.S. working-age population, helping to support a disproportionately elderly white population through Social Security and

from 17 percent to 26 percent.

The pace of assimilation for today's Latinos and Asian-Americans is often compared with that of the Poles, Irish, Italians and Jews who arrived around the turn of the 20th century and eventually merged into an American white mainstream.

About 35 percent of Hispanic babies are currently born into poverty, compared with 41 percent of blacks and 20 percent for whites. "How America responds now to the new challenges of racial and ethnic diversity will determine whether it becomes a more open and inclusive